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THE NEW YEAR.

UNTIL Parliament meets newspapers must necessarily be dull, and the public in an uncertain frame of mind. From the Crimea nothing of importance arrives, except an occasional statement about the way in which the winter is being got through. From these we see that, much as the soldiers' condition differs from that of last winter, there is still something unsatisfactory in our system of contracts. "Pack-saddles" are found rotten, and such like. We fear that these circumstances are not the fault of Government only, but spring from a too large infusion of the Paul and Strahan element in our commercial classes. It is too bad that soldiers, who have "been, done, and suffered" so much in a distant country, should suffer hardships to enable a dishonest gentleman in England to have a box at the opera. Let us hope that such cases occur but seldom, though, no doubt, every war enriches a fresh batch of plunderers. Dr. Johnson observed of such men, long ago, that "their carriages glide like meteors, and their palaces rise like exhalations."

The "pack-saddles," however, are trifles and flea-bites compared with the green coffee and the medicine-chests of 1854; and in this, as in other respects, 1856 begins better than its recent predecessors.

With regard to Kars, accurate information is not easy to obtain; the general fact, that it fell without succour, is painfully obvious. People talk of a special campaign in Asia if the war lasts till summer; but the reader has, no doubt, observed that every step of the war hitherto has falsified predictions, and (sometimes more, sometimes less,) disappointed expectations. We advanced, after a long delay, to "take Sebastopol," for the purpose of wintering in it, and the grave proved the winter quarters of the flower of our troops. We took Sebastopol at last, as "a step towards occupying the Crimea;" and now we are told that the Russians are strongly posted on the hills, and that even if we could dislodge them, the Crimea is not worth keeping. Let us, therefore, consider a little further before we cry out vaguely for a campaign in Asia; in fact, let us wait the result of the pending negotiations before urging more warlike spirit on our governors. Lord Palmerston knows as well as anybody how much he personally owes to the war, and is not likely to be eager to hush it up hastily, that Lord John Russell may come into power on the strength of a new Reform Bill.

It appears that the last year has been eminently prosperous in point of commerce. We must be careful how we apply this fact in

argument. Generally the progress of commerce is an admitted fact, and—as is excellently shown by Macaulay, in a passage which we had the honour of quoting last week—our commerce has always increased in spite of all our wars, and during our worst wars. Just in the same way our population increases, and would increase, no doubt, even if infanticide were tolerably prevalent. It shows that we can afford war; but whether we ought to continue war, is a separate question. Do not confound the two. It may, again, be true that the war opens new sources of commerce entirely,—we hope so, and believe so; but if that commerce can grow and last of itself, well and good. To carry on a war for the sake of a commerce produced by, and dependent on, the war, would surely be a losing game. We should like to see the ledger. Mandeville argued, a hundred and fifty years since, that drunkenness was a good thing, because the drunkard maintained landlords, distillers, barley-growers, and so forth; but the world has not yet accepted his theory. We say again, that the war was evoked by circumstances, and has done good; but we will not begin the year by trying to make more of it than we honestly can; and lest of all will we help to stimulate people into a frame of mind unfit for a calm judgment on the terms of peace



THE ORIGIN OF MUSIC. (FROM A PAINTING BY A. VON KLOEBER.)



which it is possible may be laid before them when Parliament meets.

Parliament will have its two functions as usual. There is the function of carrying on the Government, and the function of choosing who shall carry it on. Unfortunately, the last of these is usually the most prominent. We hope that people will rather fix their attention on the first. That Lord John should be a tolerable historian, and (as a younger son) should require £5,000 a year from the public, if convenient, is interesting in its way; it is satisfactory to know that Gladstone is well up in logic. But can we finish the war? Can we get peace? Failing peace, have we a man to send to the Baltic who knows how to attack a seaport town when it is not defended by Chinese and wooden guns? Or—say that we escape the necessity of sending an armament to the Baltic (which is rather to be desired than expected), can we invent a plausible Education scheme? Can we organise agricultural statistics? Can we answer—or if not, can we arrange to satisfy—such reformers as Mr. Locke King, who complains of our law abuses and our system of transferring land?

These are the really interesting questions, we repeat. But Parliament shows less anxiety to determine what to do, than to determine who shall have the doing of it. The party tradition is so strong, that men go on playing at Pulteney *versus* Walpole, or Fox *versus* Pitt, heedless that the real fight required is rather—sewers *versus* cholera, or alphabet *versus* ignorance. We don't want Don Quixote—we want Hercules.

It has been one effect of the war to make the public very intolerant of those personal discussions, which occupy so much of the time of Parliament. If, as is very probable, the result of the combinations of the recess proves to be the explosion of a vast mass of intrigues against the existing Ministry, we hope the public will not be bamboozled into a state of excitement about any question apart from this—honest war, or honest peace. Any internal agitation before that question is settled, would be sheer mischief. If the war prevails, we confess we see no prospects of a better War Ministry than the present one. If peace be possible, the Ministry which, by increased energy, has made it possible, is surely the fittest to carry it out—or, at all events, the carrying it out ought not to be committed to those who broke down in its management, but to a new body of men altogether. Anything but Russell and Co.! It would be a little too bad, indeed, if the rewards of war were carried off by men who first blundered it, then shirked it, and have since embarrassed it! But it will be time to enter more fully into all this when Parliament meets.

Meanwhile, how does the year begin? In some important respects, well; that is to say, the war preparations are progressing, and we know, at least, where our army system is deficient. The country is, considering that we are at war, very well off; but we must abandon the notion that we can carry on war out of our pocket-money, which was preached to us a good deal last year. We must consider how to raise more men, too, not having the power of "summoning the peasants of the Crown domains to form fresh regiments of sharpshooters," as the Czar has just done. *Appropos* of this last: the news which has just accompanied it—viz., that Prince Menschikoff has been appointed Military Governor of Cronstadt—shows where Russia begins to be anxious and uneasy. The best part of the Crimea gone, her Emperor trembles for places nearer home; and some people are of opinion that nothing but a fear for Cronstadt would really induce him to make peace. That is his own business—ours is to wait his decision calmly; and if it goes against peace, why, once more to go to work hopefully and hotly. But let us accept peace, if we can get it reasonably. Now, at least, we ought to be reasonable. We have got a little used to war once more; we have tasted its triumphs and tasted its bitterness. We know that we can do much, and we know the risk and the cost; and the fluctuations of feeling during the coming year ought to be less sudden and violent than during the last. In this moderate mood we look out on 1856; and, though determined not to be too sanguine, we feel that people have a right to be more hopeful than they were a twelvemonth ago.

THE INVENTOR OF MUSIC.

"And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and the organ."

"And Zillah, she also bare Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron."—GENESIS, chap. iv., 21, 22.

"And Cuth begat Nimrod. He began to be a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord."—IDEM, chap. x., 8, 9.

THREE names there are of mighty ones,
In Scripture's earliest page,
Whom I have pictur'd hand in hand,
From Fancy's youngest age,
Like giants, hiding half the sky—
A mountain chain their stage!

All great alike—yet how unlike!—
One in a golden crown,
As though his brain shot rays of power
Up!—like a sun half down:
With lightning in his flashing eye
And thunder in his frown.

The second, with a smoke-black skin;
An arm, whose single blow
Would pound an anvil into dust;
A forehead vast, but low,
'Neath which a bright, clear eye burnt still
As furnace embers glow.

The third—oh! he was fair to see—
With bright and flowing hair;
An eye that, like a calm blue lake,
Absorbed earth, trees, and air,
Drinking them in, and finding joy
And beauty ev'rywhere!

Upon a simple pipe he play'd:
Hushed were the hills and plain—
King Nimrod dropped his mighty spear,
And knelt to hear the strain;
And on his pine-tree hammer-shaft
Reposed grin. Tubal-Cain.

The Ruler, Artisan, and Bard!—
Great Nimrod of the Field,
Who first divined one master mind
A thousand minds could wield,
Could hold the sway the wrong to stay,
The innocent to shield!

Within his crown'd and kingly brain,
The mighty schemes that play'd;
Of nations planned, of forests clear'd,
Of laws and cities made!
In his wide earth (whose bounds were not),
Where might his dreams be stay'd?

And Tubal-Cain, the workman stout,
Who wrestled, in his lair,

With Nature in her roughest moods,
To yield her treasures rare—
As a rough savage beats his mate,
To make her good and fair!
What dreams were his when first he found
The stubborn metal yield—
The dart struck home the crusted loam
Up by the ploughshare peel'd?
When should man's sway o'er Nature stay,
In forest, mine, or field?
But greater still, oh! who shall tell
The wonders Jubal saw
And felt—but could not frame to speech,
Or even Reason's law—
When idly to the woods he piped
First on an oaten straw!

And taught his sons to pierce the reed,
And strip the willow gray,
And on the canes and sycamores
In concert sweet to play,
Wondering at the starlit night,
And worshipping the day?

That minstrel band, who heard the birds
And caught their wayward tunes,
Who piping help'd the West wind's sigh,
Sough'd back the North wind's runes,
Who sang with glee at rising suns
And wept with waning moons!

Oh! they were great, those founders three,
Beyond all human ken!
But I had chosen Jubal's part,
Had I been living then;
And Tubal-Cain might wield his spears,
And Nimrod rule his men!

R. B. B.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE great event in Paris has been the reception of the Imperial Guard by the Emperor Napoleon, full details of which will be found in another column.

A Spring campaign is now talked of and looked forward to in official circles.

The Paris correspondent of "Le Nord" says he is assured that the French Government has demanded of the Cabinet of Vienna an explanation of the toast which had been drunk in honour of the Russian army at a banquet given to Marshal Baron Hess, to celebrate his 50th year of military service.

Baron James de Rothschild has just given 30,000 bread tickets, each for a two-pound loaf, to be distributed among the poor by the Bureaux de Bienfaisance of the different arrondissements of Paris.

SPAIN.

THE Duke of Sotomayor, formerly Ambassador at London and Paris, who has been suffering for many years from violent attacks of gout, committed suicide on the 26th ult. at Madrid.

Secret conspiracies are still much talked of in Spain. The abduction of the Princess of Asturias is stated to be one of the leading objects of the conspirators, but the Government have taken such precautions as render such an attempt impossible of success.

The Parliamentary Committee, which had been charged to draw up the report on the bill relative to the establishment of a General Credit Society in Spain, is favourable to that measure, and it is very probable that it will be approved of by the Cortes. Marshal O'Donnell has had a relapse.

We are informed that the Credit Mobilier of Paris have made a most advantageous bargain in Spain, having obtained terms far beyond those secured by Rothschild in his treaty with the Austrian Government, for the Credit Mobilier of Austria. It is stated that the details of the transaction of the French Company will in a few days be before the world.

AUSTRIA.

THE Hungarian nobles, who were willing to form a "National Company for constructing a railroad from Raab to Semlin," have been subjected to a very severe disappointment. M. Periere and the Austro-French Company, which a year ago purchased a part of the Austrian railroads, have reminded Baron Bruck that certain promises were made to them in respect to any future railroads which it might appear advisable to construct in Hungary. How the matter will be settled it is impossible to say; but it is stated that the Emperor was greatly pleased to learn that the Hungarian Conservatives were willing to assist Government in developing the resources of the country.

It is said that the directors of the new Credit Bank have at length come to a resolution as to the manner in which the shares subscribed, which greatly exceed the number to be awarded, shall be divided; and that it is to the effect that persons who have subscribed for fewer than 25 shall receive half a share, that those who have subscribed from 25 to 50, shall receive a whole one, that those who have subscribed for 50 to 100, shall have two, and so on.

The negotiations between Baron Bruck and the Credit and Commercial Bank in reference to the Italian railroads have already begun. The company will not only have the Lombardo-Venetian, but also the Central Italian Railroad.

Count Buol, Baron Bach, and Count Leo Thun, have received permission from the Emperor to wear the Grand Cross of the Pius Order, which they received from the Pope, as a reward for the complaisance they displayed in the matter of the Concordat.

In Austrian circles it is rumored, that the Porte is inclined to make M. Callimachi, a Wallachian by birth, its representative at the Court of Vienna, in place of Arif Effendi, whose removal has caused no surprise, as his incapacity was apparent to every person who was brought into contact with him.

PRUSSIA.

COLONEL MANTEUFFEL, aide-de-camp to the King of Prussia, lately left Berlin for Dresden, on a special mission. He afterwards returned to Berlin. It is thought that Prussia, without adopting the Austrian propositions, will do something at St. Petersburg in the view of peace.

Count Munster, hitherto Military Representative of Prussia at St. Petersburg, arrived at Berlin about three weeks ago, on leave of absence, and will not return to his post.

RUSSIA.

PRINCE MENSCHIKOFF has been reinstated in the Emperor's favour, and appointed Governor-General of Cronstadt, with all the emoluments of the Commander-in-Chief in time of war.

On the 16th ult., there was a solemn procession in St. Petersburg for the purpose of exhibiting to the people the colours and other trophies captured at Kars; the guns from the Peter-Paul citadel boomed their accompaniments of salutes, and squadrons of cavalry, with drawn sabres, escorted the procession through the streets. There was also, at the same time, special divine service in the churches, at all of which the priests adverted to the recent victory of the Cross over the Crescent.

Generals and military governors of the various towns continued to flock to St. Petersburg for the purpose of attending the military councils now being held there.

The Government at Warsaw, has ordered a commutation of the robat (compulsory) services of the peasants on the lords' demesne, payments in kind, &c.; terminable in three years.

It is understood that the Austrian message, mis-called an ultimatum, has been formally brought to the knowledge of the Russian Government at

St. Petersburg, and officially communicated to Prince Gortschakoff at Vienna. The term fixed for the return of an answer by Russia is January 17. It is, moreover, stated that the demand for the "cession of so much of the territory of Bessarabia as is necessary to secure to all nations the free navigation of the Danube," is interpreted as applying to "that part of Bessarabia which lies between the fortress of Chotyń on the north, the Salt Lake Sasyk on the south, and the Pruth on the west."

A diplomatic circular has been issued by Russia, dated St. Petersburg, December 22, announcing that the Czar is willing to consent to the third point of the Four Guarantees drawn up at the Conferences of Vienna, if regulated in the following manner:—

"The principle of the closing of the Straits of the Dardanelles is maintained.

"No war flag shall be admitted into the Black Sea except that of the forces which Russia and Turkey may judge it necessary to maintain there, by mutual agreement.

"The amount of these forces shall be fixed by a direct arrangement between Russia and Turkey without the ostensible participation of the other Powers."

It is reported that the internal condition of Russia increases in wretchedness. Property and life are insecure, and articles of importation are becoming of the greatest scarcity and dearth. As there is no sale for their corn abroad, large proprietors are neglecting to sow their land, and a famine is looked for as the result.

On the 4th of last month there were fifty cases of cholera at St. Petersburg, notwithstanding the coldness of the weather.

SWEDEN.

THE King has conferred the Order of the Seraphim on Count Walewski, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs.

A Royal decree has just authorised the entrance of foreign iron into Sweden, as well as woven goods and ready-made articles of clothing. Swedish iron is declared free of duty on exportation.

DENMARK.

It is stated that the Danish Government, under the twofold pressure of the partial relinquishment of neutrality by Sweden and the apparently inevitable conflict with the United States, on account of the Sound dues, has decided upon making advances to the Allies in the matter of the future campaign in the Baltic. For some time the Government has wavered between England and France, to which of the two it should make its advances, and at last decided for the former; in consequence of which a special envoy is very shortly to be accredited to London for the purpose of concluding a treaty, by which England shall guarantee to Denmark the possession of her West India islands.

SWITZERLAND.

THE "Feuille Federale" publishes the project of a treaty of commerce between the Swiss Confederation and England, stipulating for perfect reciprocity between the two nations as regards liberty of residence, exemption from national charges, and the enjoyment of all the rights conceded to the most favoured nations. A government message recommends the Federal Assembly to adopt this convention.

SARDINIA.

A LETTER from Turin says:—"The Italian Legion is progressing favourably. The Legion much requires the services of some good English lieutenants or captains of companies, who can speak Italian, and whose colonels will vouch for their thoroughly understanding the internal economy and discipline of a company."

TURKEY.

THE commanding officers of the Allied forces at Constantinople lately entered into a convention with the Divan to form a military police, for the purpose of repressing crimes and misdemeanours in the town of Constantinople. The Sultan, it is reported, when the fact of the convention was brought under his notice, put his veto on the project at once.

A violent shock of an earthquake was felt on the night of the 16th ult. Several vessels have run aground at the mouth of the Sulina.

Accounts from Constantinople, of the 20th, state that Prince Callimachi is appointed Ottoman Ambassador at Vienna.

The army of Erzerum is to be increased to 35,000 men.

The "Agram Gazette" states from Cattaro that, on 10th ult., 500 Montenegrins entered the territory of Sozina, which lies partly within the Austrian and partly within the Turkish and Montenegrin frontier, and took possession of it. This district, which does not contain more than 300 acres, has long been a sort of debateable land, to which the Turks of Spic and Antavari had hitherto successfully asserted their right. Some ten years ago, the Montenegrins attempted to drive them out, but were repulsed. It is stated that the Pacha of Scutari intends to oppose this encroachment.

UNITED STATES.

THE British and North American Royal Mail steamer *America* arrived in the Mersey, on Monday last. She brings advices from Boston to the 19th and from Halifax to the 21st, and by telegraph from Washington to the 20th ult. She brings 133 passengers and 308,480 dollars in specie, nearly all of which is for Havre. At the date of the departure of the steamer, the House of Representatives had been still unable to elect a Speaker.

A correspondent, writing from Washington, on the 14th ult., to a New York paper, respecting the recent disputes between England and the States, says:—

"Mr. Buchanan's paper set forth a settled determination on the part of the British Minister, Lord Palmerston, to offer no further terms of explanation or conciliation than those already made known to the American Government. His language to Mr. Buchanan is, that the American Government can expect nothing further through our exertions to get the redress demanded by diplomacy. This sentiment is not intended to convey hostility on the part of Great Britain, but it applies as a fixed determination not to make further apologies, those already made being deemed all that the case called for. It would seem that Mr. Marcy and the President have agreed upon the one point—that in the event, by the next arrival, which proved to be the Baltic, there should be no alteration in the British Minister's course towards the United States on the subject of her demand, which was a satisfactory apology or the displacement of her Minister, the subject should be referred to Congress for immediate action. The message on this point will not probably undergo any material change."

Accounts from Kansas represent the inhabitants of that territory as being under arms, in response to the call of Governor Shannon. Three thousand men are said to be already in the field to put down the opponents of law and order, and a violent collision is looked for between the belligerents.

The *Union of Washington* reports that an unknown donor, full of admiration for the gallant defence of Sebastopol, had sent to the chief of the Russian Legation a check for 4,000 dollars, the amount of which was to be distributed among "the widows and orphans of the Russian soldiers who fell bravely fighting for their homes against foreign aggressions." It is stated that the President purposes to recommend the purchase of the Hudson's Bay Company's possessions on the north-west coast of America.

Two proclamations had been issued by the President. The first was against the Nicaragua Filibusters, and the second, an announcement that Newfoundland, having complied with the provisions of the reciprocity treaty with the British North American provinces, would be entitled to all the privileges accruing therefrom.

INDIA AND CHINA.

LETTERS from Calcutta, November 22, state that martial law has been at length declared in the Santal districts. The reasons for this step will, of course, not be explained until we have a Santal Blue Book; it is, however, understood that Colonel Low yielded first; he was followed by Messrs. Grant and Peacock, and on the 10th of November the proclamation appeared.

The Santals, it is expected, will yield, and it will then be necessary for the Legislature to act before they can be punished as they deserve. They have not, however, yielded yet, and, according to the latest accounts, treat the proclamation as a *brutum fulmen*, like the menace which accompanied the former offer of pardon. Brigadier Lloyd, however, is advancing down the Grand Trunk road, and additional troops are on their march from the north-west. It is expected that the irregular cavalry will soon settle the business.

The letters from Hong Kong of the 15th of November, state that there are no definite news respecting the rebels of the north. In the Kwangsi and Oonam provinces, however, they are said to maintain their position, and their proximity occasions some anxiety in the Canton district, and materially injures trade. A large fleet of boats collected outside the Bogue, but retired before the Imperial force sent against them, and their present position is not exactly known.

AUSTRALIA.

A LETTER from Melbourne says:—
“On Monday morning, the 17th of September, at 2.45 a.m., a shock of an earthquake was felt in Melbourne, of greater force and duration than others which have been felt here. In the night it roused every one; doors and windows shook, in the case of loose wooden houses the knockers took to knocking *ad sponte*. The whole vibration lasted 35 seconds, and was preceded by a rushing sound, and accompanied by a rumbling. It was felt at Geelong, forty miles off in a straight line.”

NEW ZEALAND.

THE imports last year into the Canterbury settlement, it is said, exceeded £100,000, the population being only 4,000.

Property is becoming enormously valuable. Land in Christchurch sells for £70 to £100 per acre. Horses are awfully dear. £95 was paid the other day for a good riding mare; a good heavy cart-horse sells for £120.

A letter from the settlement says:—
“You can scarcely credit the want of labour here. Mechanics, 10s. to 20s. a day; common labourers, from 7s. to 12s. a day; ordinary housemaids and cooks, £35 a year. A groom, living in the house, but employed also in cutting wood and tending the garden, gets £50 a year. However, notwithstanding the heavy expenses, the Australian market makes farming lucrative. Potatoes fetch £8 to £12 per ton; wheat, 10s. to 15s. per bushel.”

The War.

OPERATIONS IN THE CRIMEA.

DEFEAT OF THE RUSSIANS—MARSHAL PELISSIER'S DESPATCH.

Head-quarters, Sebastopol, Dec. 11.

“MONSIEUR LE MARÉCHAL.—You have already learnt by my telegraphic despatch of the 8th inst., of the failure of the Russians in their attack on the morning of that day against the advanced post of D'Autemarre's division in the Valley of Baidar.

“As your Excellency is aware, these advanced posts form a semicircle at 3,000 metres in advance of General D'Autemarre's division on the Upper Tchernaya, passing by Eski-Arman, Ourkust, Baga, and Savatka. Those villages, situated at the foot of the wooded heights which separate the Valley of Baidar from the Upper Belbek and the Choulouk, command a sight of the passes by which that valley can be entered, and are occupied by strong advanced posts (*grand'gardes*).

“The enemy, on the strength, probably, of information received from Tartars, conceived the idea of carrying off one or more of our outposts.

“On the 7th, at daybreak, a portion of the Russian troops stationed at Jenisala, at Fok-Sala, and Argu, were suddenly put in movement. The Cossack regiment of Colonel Zolotoroff took the lead, followed by 500 men taken from the ranks, armed with rifles; these were followed by three battalions of the Smolensk regiment, Colonel Oglobcheff, which formed the main body of the column, consisting of about 2,500 infantry and 400 to 500 horsemen.

“The Russians crossed the summits of the Cradon-Bell and Caden-Otar ridges; surrounded during the night, which was dark and rainy, and carried, despite a vigorous resistance, a small advanced post of twelve men, placed at the junction of the Baga and Ourkust roads. They then attacked with the greater number of their force, about half-past 5 in the morning, the villages of Ourkust and Baga, directing their chief efforts against the latter village.

“The *grand garde* stationed there consisted of a section of the seventh battalion of Chasseurs-à-pied, of three companies of the second battalion of the 26th Regiment of the Line, and of a detachment of the 4th Chasseurs d'Afrique, commanded by Chef de Bataillon Richebourg, of the 26th. This superior officer remaining in position allowed the enemy to approach, and did not fire till within good reach; the firm attitude of his troops imposed upon the enemy, and, despite their superiority in number, prevented them gaining ground. The Russians then attempted to turn us by the left, and to descend into the plain between Baga and Savatka, so as to cut off our retreat towards the Tchernaya.

“While the enemy was thus trying to penetrate by Baga they were also advancing on Ourkust. Lieutenant-Colonel Lacroette, of the 19th of the Line, commanding the line of advanced posts, was stationed on this point, with five companies of the 7th Battalion of Chasseurs-à-pied, and a division of the 4th Chasseurs d'Afrique. He immediately assumed the offensive, and sent at once, under the orders of Chef de Bataillon Maurice, in command of the 7th battalion, two companies of Chasseurs of that battalion to a small plateau, situated in advance to the right of Ourkust, and from which those companies threatened the Russian right. This movement, executed with great resolution, first alarmed, and then caused the enemy to hesitate; they first slackened their advances, and then came to a halt. On perceiving this indecision, the charge was sounded along the whole line, and from Baga as well as from Ourkust our troops threw themselves against the enemy, who were compelled to beat a retreat, and were pursued through the woods nearly as far as the ridges which encompass the valley.

“At the same time that the Russians attacked Baga and Ourkust, 200 infantry and about 150 Cossacks, descending by the Caden-Otar road, attempted a diversion on the left of Ourkust; but they found two companies of the 7th Chasseurs-à-pied to stop their advance, and, after two or three bayonet charges, they turned heel. Captain Pichon, who commanded those companies, and who killed three Russians with his own hand, displayed on this occasion his usual vigour.

“On the first musket-shots General D'Autemarre had sent General Niel, with two battalions and a squadron, to reinforce the line attacked. But on the arrival of these reserves on the scene of action the enemy was already completely routed; at 9 a.m. all was over.

“Our troops and their commanders, Monsieur le Maréchal, did their duty well; they were full of resolution and intelligence, and this is what made the success so quick and so decisive even against superior forces.

“The Russians left in our hands 150 killed, wounded, or prisoners. The number of the latter is 28; that of the wounded taken to our ambulances is 17, two of whom are officers. Yesterday morning, 80 killed had been buried, and a search was going on for those that might have fallen among the brushwood.

“Our loss, even including the 12 men of the outpost that was surrounded, and four Chasseurs d'Afrique, captured between Baga and Ourkust, is much less than that of the enemy. We only had two men killed and 11 wounded, one of whom is an officer. We owe this happy result to the promptitude itself of the success.

“PELISSIER, Marshal.”

LAND TRANSPORT CORPS.

Under present circumstances, Colonel Wetherall, the Director-General of the Land Transport Corps, has felt himself obliged to lighten the burdens on his corps as speedily and as much as possible; and in compliance with his recommendation, orders have been given to suspend the carriage of hutting materials to the front, so that many thousand men will have to pass the winter under canvas, unless the huts be sent up before the bad weather sets in with severity. In fact, mules and carts are fast disappearing; it is said that of the former not less than 1,200 have perished or have been destroyed since the rains began, and the number of carts, &c., which have broken down, is enormous.

General Windham proposes large alterations in the whole transport service, and next year it is not improbable that the corps will consist of nearly 20,000 men and 20,000 mules and horses. The recruiting officers might advantageously exert themselves to procure a better class of men than those recently sent out. The conduct of those just arrived in the *Ripon* has been very creditable on the voyage from England.

THE RUSSIAN FORTIFICATIONS RECENTLY ERECTED.

The summit of the Plateau Constantine is now covered by a fortification to which it would be difficult to give a technical name; it is a pile of

batteries and counter-batteries, of cavaliers and redoubts united together to Fort Constantine, by numerous covered ways. In the rear of Fort Constantine is a small bay, in which there are several large storehouses. There are two batteries at the bottom of this bay, and the Russians are now engaged in constructing a third. After Constantine comes Fort Catherine, constructed, like it, of granite, with a double row of casemates and embrasures. It has been strengthened with fresh earthworks, and the upper part—that is to say, the terrace—is filled with guns *en barbette* and heavy mortars. This fort is in the form of an oblong square, with the corner opposite the port rounded off, while the other corner on the same side is flanked by a large crenelated tower. The part towards the land is defended by two strong towers, large ditches, and a horn-work, situated on a small tongue of land which runs out towards the port. Two earthworks, having each 15 guns, have been thrown up on the right and left of the fort. A little above this fort, on an intermediate plateau, is another strong battery, and on the summit of the plateau is a large construction, which serves as a sort of advanced work to the citadel. After Fort Catherine there is another point on which the Russians have cut out in the earth and rock a series of fortifications on a most gigantic scale, the whole point being, in fact, metamorphosed into a citadel. There appear to be here several rows of batteries, then barracks for the troops, and then more batteries. In the rear of this point may be seen some small clusters of houses or stores, and some small vessels lying on the shore. The beach is defended by a strong battery, which extends all round the bay, as far as Fort Severnaya, which is of itself an assemblage of batteries placed one over the other, and defended on the land side by a large ditch. To the right of Severnaya are some sunken steamers, and then another village or collection of barracks and storehouses, protected by two batteries. All these are commanded by the Citadel, which has been so much increased, that all that formerly existed is now concealed behind the immense work recently executed.

OUTRAGE AT KAMIESCH—CAMP FOLLOWERS.

It appears that a man employed in a canteen in the town gave some cause of offence to the sergeant of the detachment of the 11th Hussars quartered at Kazatch, for orderly duty between head-quarters and the admiral. The sergeant, having armed himself with a pistol, went to the canteen and accused the man of being a deserter from the *Royal Albert*, calling on him at the same time to surrender and follow him. The man denied that he was a deserter, and refused to go, whereupon the sergeant fired at him across the counter, and gave him a mortal wound, of which he died in a very short time in great agony. The sergeant was at once seized by persons in the canteen, and is now under close arrest. However, considering the vast number of all sorts and conditions of men out here, it is only astonishing that acts of violence have been so few and far between. There are not less than 25,000 camp followers, including those of the French, Sardinians, and English, belonging to the allied army, or hanging on their skirts; and some persons are inclined to believe that this estimate is very much under the mark. In the pursuit of gain most of these people expose themselves to considerable hardships and privations. How they provide fodder for the beasts they drive is one of the secrets of their peculiar existence, and the variety of vehicles belonging to these Bashi-Bazouks of trade and commerce constitute a curious detail of the wonders of the camp.

THE INTERIOR OF SEBASTOPOL.

The Russians keep up a pertinacious fire on the town. The reports of their guns shake my hut this fine day at the rate of about two a minute, and the sound is tolerably loud with this wind. Sebastopol is a disagreeable place to go to on pleasure, for shot and shell are continually lobbing along the streets, houses are falling piecemeal, and the stones flying about from the shock of cannon-balls. The casualties, however, are very few, and the French have displayed great ingenuity in erecting comfortable magazines and shops in out-of-the-way parts of the town, where one can get a cup of coffee and a cigar without much danger. But to the uninitiated, the roar of a ball and the twittering hiss of a shell fail to give zest to these luxuries.

THE LABOURS NECESSARY TO DESTROY THE DOCKS.

It is no longer an occurrence of every week to go down to Sebastopol once or twice, and few people resort to the docks unless they are on duty, or have just come out, and are under the painful necessity of going *en amateur*. The whole establishment of a *cantine* went smash the other day, through the operation of a shell, and, although it was tolerably well filled, the only damage done was to the poor proprietress, who lost her hand and an immense amount of crockery, comestibles, and customers. The labours of the Sappers and Miners have been very heavy in making the mines to destroy the docks, and it is to be hoped they will receive some extra reward for their laborious duties, which have only begun with the end of the siege.

HEALTH OF THE ARMY.—PATRONAGE UNFAIRLY DISTRIBUTED.

Our soldiers and officers, and all connected with the army, are in the very best health and spirits, working hard and cheerfully. At the same time, there are sad complaints against the authorities in England, on account of the manner they distribute their patronage. On this point the very strongest expressions of feeling are heard. Men say that distinguishing themselves in the field, or keeping constantly in the Crimea, is of no use, since it is interest with the authorities in England that tells; and here men are named and instances given, showing how unjustly and unfairly patronage is distributed.

A CAVALRY SKIRMISH NEAR KERTCH.

The “Invalide Russe” says, under date of the 8th (20th) of December, Aide-de-Camp General Prince Gortschakoff has sent the following:—

“On the 4th (16th) of December two sotnias of Cossacks of the Black Sea defeated, near Kertch, a strong squadron of the Anglo-Turkish cavalry of General Vivian. In this affair the commander of the squadron, an English officer, and forty-seven men, were made prisoners.

“Elsewhere, all goes on well in the Crimea.”

THE FLEET IN THE BLACK SEA.

(From our Correspondent.)

We have had a succession of northerly gales with heavy seas, accompanied by snow, and the weather has lately been excessively cold, the thermometer averages 10 deg., but on the 18th it was as low as 6 deg. Fahr. Several French transports, barques and brigs, have driven ashore and become total wrecks, and others have gone down altogether, and many lives have been lost, as dead bodies are constantly floating ashore on Kamiesch Point. Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons hoisted his flag as Admiral of the Blue, (at the main), on the 12th; and the French Squadron in Kamiesch Bay, manned yards and saluted, which compliment of course the English Flag-ship returned. It is rumoured that the Admiral will go home, and Rear-Admiral Sir Houston Stewart take the command of the Mediterranean Squadron. There are now only left in Kazatch Bay, since the Admiral has left us, the *Furious*, 16; *Odin*, 16; *Meteor*, 14, and *Glatton*, 14, floating-batteries; the *Megara*, 4; *Apollo*, 6; *Medina*, 4; *Cyclops*, 6; and Supply Storeship, beside a host of French transports.

RUSSIAN PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.

A DESPATCH from St. Petersburg, of Dec. 23, states that the Ministry of War has advertised for tenders for the supply of 139 complete mortar carriages, and fittings for an immense number of others. All are to be delivered early in the spring. 5,250 cwts. of ordnance are to be delivered at Archangel. The arsenal at St. Petersburg is ready to contract for the delivery of 200,000 lbs. of Russian lead. Similar advertisements are appearing daily in the “Gazette.”

Another despatch, bearing date Dec. 30, announces that the Emperor has commanded Count Perofsky, Minister of Appanages, to issue a fresh proclamation to the peasants of the crown domains, calling on them to raise a second corps of sharpshooters, to bear the name of the Imperial family, and defend Holy Russia against the enemies of the orthodox faith.

An Imperial ukase orders a new coinage of copper, to the amount of three millions of silver roubles, to be commenced as soon as the issue previously ordered shall have been completed.

THE RETURN OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD.—THE EMPEROR'S SPEECH.

THE celebration of the return of the Imperial Guard from the Crimea to Paris took place on Saturday last. The ceremony has been looked forward to with great interest, and the whole population of Paris seemed desirous of associating themselves with this military *fête*. Probably, there were not many among the multitude who witnessed the exciting spectacle, that did not count among those gallant troops a relative or a friend; and the acclamation which hailed their presence proved to the soldiers of Alma, Inkermann, and Sebastopol what sympathy really exists towards them in the hearts of the people.

As there is no section of the armies of France more popular than the Imperial Guard, it may not be uninteresting to our readers to have a brief sketch of their history. The existence, then, of the Guard dates before the Empire, though it was after that period that it acquired its great celebrity. It existed under the Consulate, and not the least remarkable of its triumphal entries into Paris was after the battle of Marengo. The day after that hard-won victory it beat its way to the capital, which it entered on the 14th of July, 1806; and it deposited in the Hôtel des Invalides the colours captured from the enemy. It was during the long encampment on the shores of the Channel which separates France from England that the Imperial Guard was completely organised. It was intended to form the reserve of the whole army, and as such more immediately under the command of the Emperor himself. Each corps comprised four divisions, varying in strength from 5,000 to 7,000 men, commanded by generals of division, who received their orders from the general of the corps. The Imperial Guard was considered so essentially a *corps d'élite* that it was only on some great occasion, either to turn the scale of victory when yet doubtful, or to serve as the last rampart against the victorious enemy, that it was employed. On the hard-fought field of Borodino the Guard was not brought up. It was too precious an instrument to be used, except on the most important occasions; and the Emperor himself declared that he felt the necessity of preserving it unimpaired in order to strike a decisive blow in the greater battle which he expected the enemy would fight in the plains in front of Moscow. Had the Guard been seriously damaged at Borodino, it is doubtful whether the army, of which it was the heart and soul, would have been able to repass the Niemen.

One of the first acts of the Restoration was the dissolution of that noble corps. They had, in the first instance, been intrusted with the guard at the Tuileries, but were speedily removed, and their place supplied by troops obtained from Switzerland and La Vendée. They were even removed from Paris, under pretence of avoiding quarrels with the troops of the Allies who occupied the capital; the officers were sent to their homes, there to await their ulterior destination, and the most stringent orders given to the troops who had returned from foreign garrisons, to prevent the slightest allusion to the name of the fallen Emperor. The new force wearing uniforms unknown to the army of Imperial France, and never stained on the field of battle, supplanted the old troops and the National Guard in the service of the royal palace. These changes were submitted to in silence, but they were never effaced from the heart of the army, and that dream of security obtained from such measures was soon to have a terrible awakening.

The organisation of the Guard by the present Emperor is of too recent a date to require notice of any particular kind, and the events which gave interest to its entry into the capital on Saturday last, are, we may presume, familiar to every one. The reception was of the most enthusiastic and brilliant character, surpassing even, it is said, the recent reception given to Queen Victoria. All the flags which were exhibited on that occasion were put in requisition; and in quarters far remote from the line of the Boulevards special flags were exhibited. Two triumphal arches were erected, one on the Place de la Bastille, and the other near the Porte St. Martin. The Emperor, on horseback, followed by his Staff, and escorted by the Cent Gardes and the Guides, passed along the Boulevards, and arrived on the Place de la Bastille at about a quarter past 12 o'clock. There around the column of July, denuded (and thus a fact to be noticed by the way) of the *couronnes* usually seen around it, were drawn up the following troops, who, pursuant to orders, came into Paris by the Lyons railway early in the morning, from the country quarters in which they have been provisionally stationed:—the 20th, 39th, 50th (the regiment particularly distinguished at the taking of the Malakhoff) of the Line, the Foot Chasseurs of the Imperial Guard, the Zouaves of the Guard, the two Regiments of Voltigeurs, the Artillery of the Guard, the two regiments of Grenadiers, and the regiment of Gendarmerie of the Guard. The Emperor, who was accompanied by Prince Napoleon, pronounced, on his arrival on the Place de la Bastille, the following speech:—

“Soldiers,—I come to meet you, as formerly the Roman Senate went to the gates of Rome to meet its victorious legions. I come to tell you that you have deserved well of your country.

“My emotion is great, for the happiness of seeing you again is mingled with painful regrets for those who are no more—and with bitter disappointment that I was prevented from leading you myself to battle.

“Soldiers of the Guard, as well as soldiers of the Line, you are welcome.

“You, all of you, represent that army of the East whose courage and perseverance have once more illustrated our eagles, and reconquered for France the rank that is due to her.

“Your country, attentive to all that is passing in the East, receives you with all the more pride, that she measures your deeds by the obstinate resistance of the enemy.

“I have recalled you, notwithstanding that the war is not over, because it is just to relieve in their turn the regiments which have most suffered. Thus every man will be able to claim his share of glory, and the country which keeps up an army of six hundred thousand men is interested that there should now be in France a numerous army, inured to war, and ready to march wherever it may be necessary.

“Preserve, then, scrupulously, your warlike habits, improve upon the experience you have acquired. Hold yourselves in readiness to respond, if need be, to my call. But, on this day, forget the trials of a soldier's life, thank God for having spared you, and march proudly amidst your brothers in arms and your fellow-citizens, whose plaudits await you.”

After this address, not one word of which was lost by the troops, and which was received with the loudest acclamations, Marshal Magnan assumed the command of the Crimean corps, who formed into columns, and the *cortège* of the Emperor returned in the same order to the Place Vendôme.

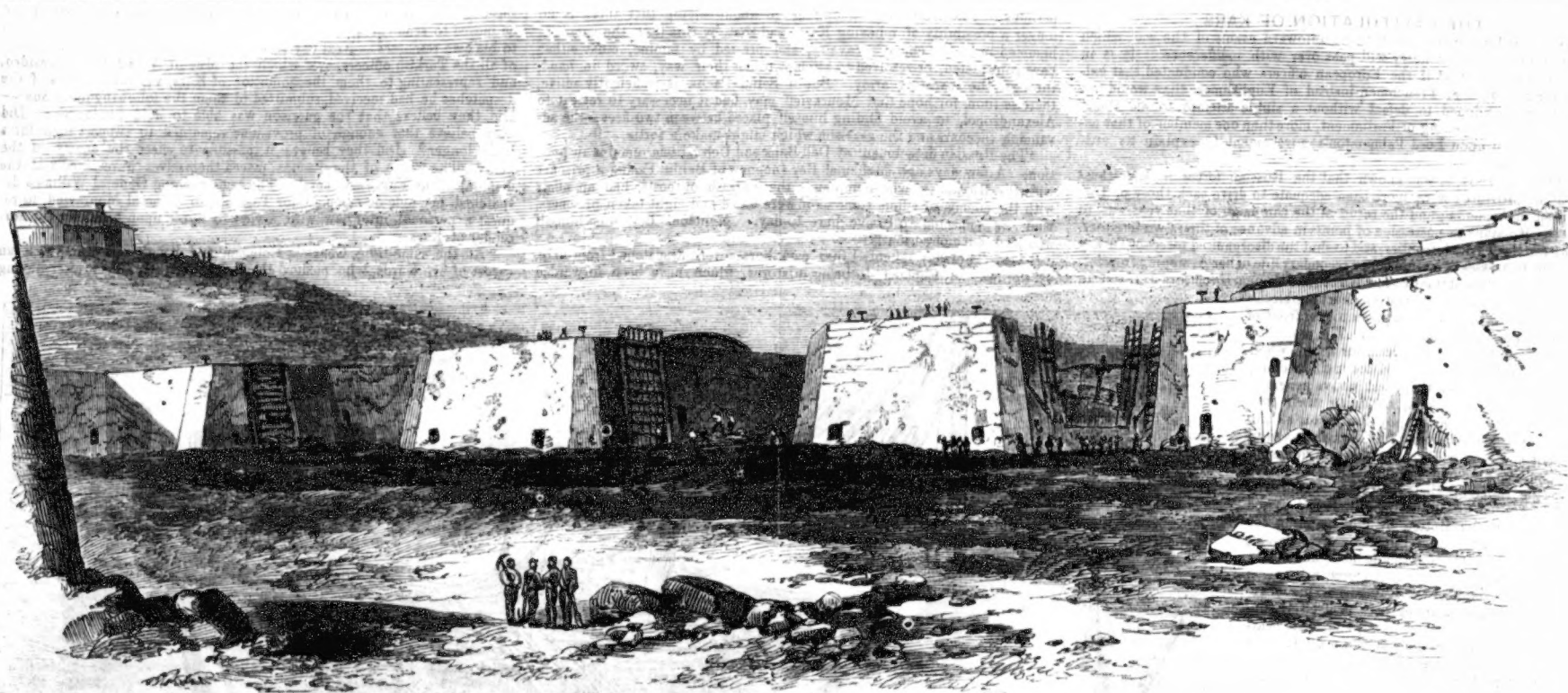
Next week, we shall give an engraving illustrating the most striking scene connected with this reception.

THE KING OF SARDINIA AND THE EDINBURGH PROTESTANTS.

WHILE the King of Sardinia was in England, some Edinburgh Protestants got up an address, in which they spoke of “the merited contempt” with which the King of Sardinia regarded the opposition of the Court of Rome to his measures for the promotion of civil and religious liberty. The Marquis d'Azeglio, in his reply, says:—

“I cannot conceal from you that it is with extreme regret that His Majesty has been informed of the expressions of contempt (expression de mépris) by which your address stigmatises the Court of Rome. The King, as well as his predecessors, has considered it a duty to maintain the civil power in his hands intact. He may have deplored profoundly the line of conduct which the Holy See has thought it its duty to adopt towards him of late years. But, descended as he is from a long line of Catholic princes, and Sovereign of subjects almost entirely Roman Catholics, he cannot admit of words of reproach thus severe, and, above all, injurious, towards the head of that Church on earth. He cannot share in those contemptuous thoughts, which not only could not enter into his heart, but, above all, never could find place in a reply such as I have the honour to address to you. Your address further expresses the hope that His Majesty may extend to his subjects all the same privileges which have been conceded to the Vaudois. I am happy in being able to inform you that your wishes are already accomplished. King Charles Albert, in emancipating the Vaudois, desired to extend this measure, not only to the Protestants of all denominations, but even to the Israelites, who in his States enjoy in common the same rights, civil and religious. In thus vindicating the well-known sentiments of the King, I have no doubt that I have secured for him an additional title to your esteem; for, as a Roman Catholic Sovereign, he has proved, that, in his eyes, religion is the symbol of tolerance, of union, and of liberty, and that one of the principles which form the basis of his Government is liberty of conscience.”

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA has written a very flattering letter of congratulation to Baron Hesse, who has completed his 50th year of military service, and given him the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Stephen.



INTERIOR OF THE DOCKYARD, SEBASTOPOL.—(FROM A SKETCH BY LIEUT. HARVEY.)

THE DOCKS OF SEBASTOPOL.

A RECENT letter from Kamiesch announces, as a fact of considerable importance, that the Docks of Sebastopol are at length to be blown up. These Docks were among the most remarkable maritime constructions, not only of Russia but of the whole world. Miners have for some time been engaged in sinking shafts to the bottom of the lowest foundations; these shafts were terminated recently, and preparations for the blowing-up were then made. The destruction of these great works, some exclaim, will be the signal for a war without mercy. "It seems to me," a general is reported to have said, "that in blowing up the Docks, we shall blow up the headquarters of negotiations."

However that may be, we deem the occasion fitting to present our readers with two engravings connected with these great naval works—one representing a general view of the Docks, the other, their interior.

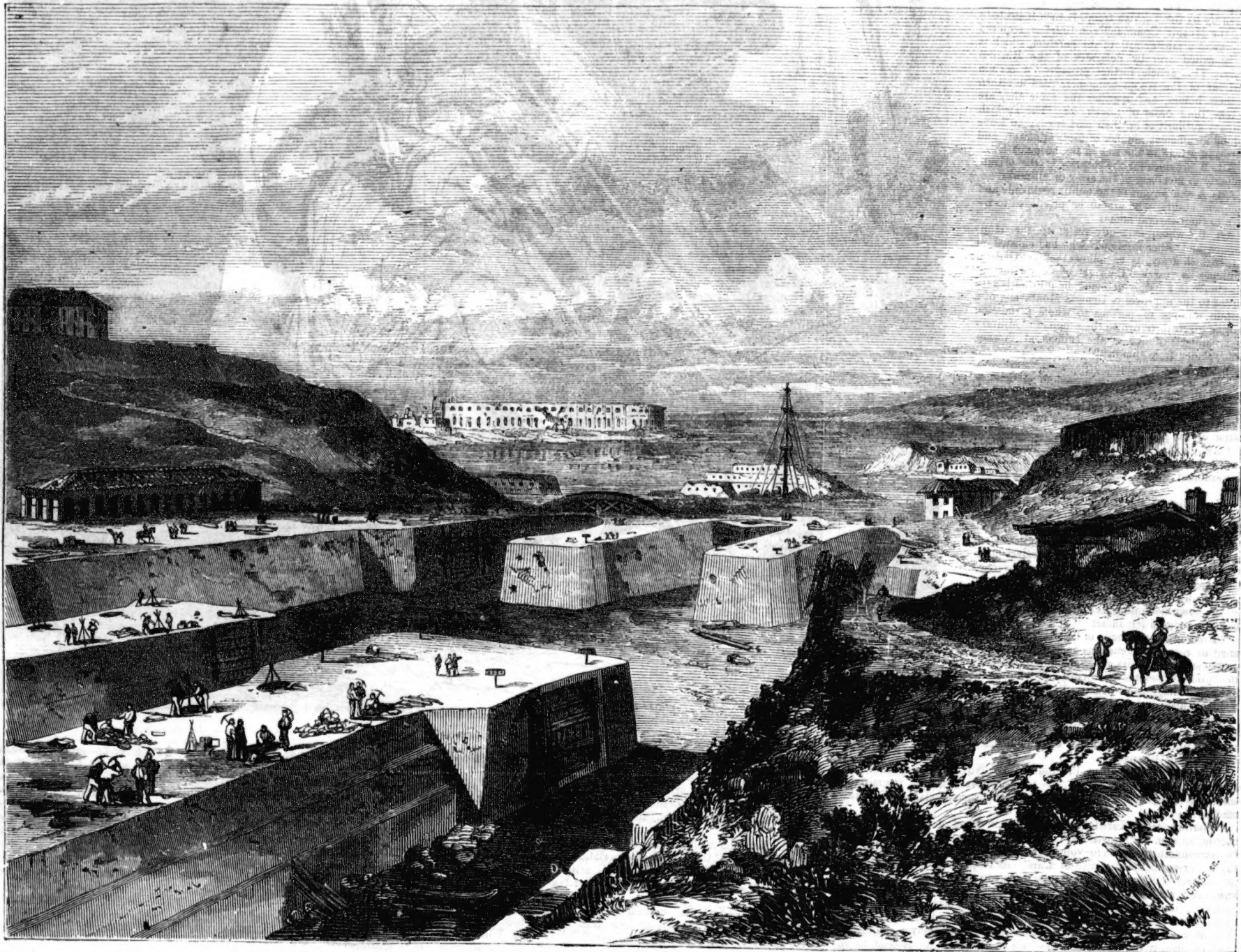
The harbour of Sebastopol, as our readers are aware, runs about three miles up the country; at the entrance it is about a mile in width. Northward, the bay is bounded by a rather steep acclivity; but on the southern side, four small bays intersect the promontory, and are also surrounded by rather high banks. The two central bays were used as war harbours; and

merchant-ships were only allowed to enter the first harbour, near the entrance, which was known as the Carcening Bay. The entire harbour is of such extent, that it could afford refuge to a number of merchantmen, in addition to that fleet which astonished the Black Sea, which the Russians regarded with national pride, but which is now sunk beneath the waters.

The stone docks, for the demolition of which the French and English engineers have, of late, been making preparations, are described as magnificent works. There are, as we recently mentioned, six docks, arranged in two rows of three each, one row behind the other. The two sets are separated from each other by a very large and capacious basin. The first series, that nearest to the head of the Karabelnaia port, is constructed for the reception of vessels drawing 21 feet of water: the second, for vessels drawing 18 feet of water. They are built of carefully-cut white limestone, edged with a close-grained fine granite; and in every part wherever there is more than the usual liability to wear and detrition, whether from friction, strain, or weather, or where particular support is required, this latter kind of stone is used in place of the former. At certain intervals, where openings have been left in the sides of the docks to admit of descent by flights of stone

steps, are seen some highly-polished blocks of red granite, magnificent in size and quality, which are said to have been brought from Peterhead. The iron gates, of enormous size, and the machinery by which they are opened and closed, are all of the most careful workmanship. Alongside the docks are spacious wharves, and all the various workshops, sheds, and houses used by the artisans and labourers in the dockyard employ. An idea of the expense of the construction of the docks of Sebastopol, may be formed from the fact, that their sides are built of square blocks, each side of which measures about five feet, and that the lock-gates, which were procured from England, cost the sum of 270,000 silver roubles.

The docks of Sebastopol, were moreover constructed, we learn, at an incredible sacrifice of human life. Thirty thousand men were engaged in the excavations, carrying away the soil by sacksful, almost by handfuls. It was "a perfect anthill, in which the infinite division of labour arrived at last at the same result as motive power and machinery." But the intense heat and perpetual clouds of white dust brought a "fearful visitation" on this active mass. The ophthalmia of Egypt broke out in an intense form, and was raging among them; 24 hours, it is stated, "were sufficient for the eye to become so entirely corrupt as to fall from the socket."



THE DOCKYARDS AT SEBASTOPOL.—(FROM A SKETCH BY LIEUT. HARVEY.)

THE CAPITULATION OF KARS.

The fall of Kars is not one of those untoward events of the war, which public opinion in this country will pass over with indifference. It is in every one's mouth, that if the European officers who conducted that gallant struggle had been Frenchmen instead of Englishmen, they would not have been abandoned to defeat without a single attempt to aid them. Doubtless, at the opening of Parliament, more than one member of that assembly will call upon Lord Palmerston's government to explain its culpable supineness.

In October, 1854, it was known that the Russian forces in the trans-Caucasian provinces were more than adequate to drive back those of Turkey, then in Armenia; and the result of the campaign of that year was, to place the Russians in possession of points in advance of their own territory, and within the Turkish frontier, and to shut the disorganised forces of Turkey within the fortresses of an interior or secondary line of her Armenian frontier. To remedy this state of things, a few British and Hungarian officers were sent to remodel the Turkish forces, and no other tangible assistance appears to have been given to this front of the grand campaign against Russia. The year 1855 advanced, and with it the season for action, when we found the Russians in better order than before, and headed by one of their best native generals, invading Turkey in Asia, obtaining their own supplies, to a great extent, by forays on all the open country, and enclosing the Turkish forces in their lair at Kars, while other Turkish forces in Erzeroum either could not or would not venture out to the relief of their brethren. After the season best fitted for active operations had passed away, Omar Pacha, fretted by idly parading for months with his troops at Eupatoria or at Baidar, was allowed to enter the Asiatic field, and made, when too late, and with too small a force, a diversion upon the right flank of the Russians. This movement, however ably planned, both in itself as connected with the Caucasian tribes, and in its bearings on the communications of the main Russian army, seems to have been based on a miscalculation of the condition of the garrison of Kars, and was made too late in the season, and at too great a distance from the Russian base, to produce any effect in relief of the main Turkish force; and Kars, hanging on the events of a few days, eventually falls by famine.

Last week we published the report of General Mouravieff to the Russian Government, announcing the surrender. Since then the St. Petersburg papers have made us acquainted with the official terms of capitulation, which contain, however, but few additional facts of interest.

Art. 1. Stipulates for the surrender of the fortress and all the *matériel* of war intact; guns not to be spiked, and stores and arms to be delivered up in the state they were in at the time of signing the act of surrender. It then goes on to provide for the manner in which possession of the foregoing is to be given up to the Russians.

Art. 2. Refers to the surrender of the garrison, as prisoners of war, and provides, "as a testimonial of the valorous resistance made by the garrison of Kars," that the officers of all ranks are to keep their swords. The different positions to be taken up by the Turkish troops is then indicated; and the Mushir Commander-in-Chief is required to present a muster-roll of the garrison, which is to be called over by delegates of the Russian army. This article further provides for certain portions of the troops being permitted to return to their homes, and specifies the route they are to take, their order of march, &c. The Turkish military authorities on their part engage to leave behind a sufficient number of medical officers and nurses to attend to the sick in the hospitals.

Art. 3 provides for the security of the private property of members of the army of all ranks.

Arts. 4 and 5 refer to the militia regiments and non-combatants, who are to be privileged to return to their several homes.

Art. 6, which evidently refers to the Hungarians and other foreigners who had enlisted in the Turkish army, is as follows:—"To General Williams is reserved the right of designating at his choice in a list, which must be previously submitted to the approval of General Mouravieff, of a certain number of persons to whom permission will be given to return to their homes. Military men, subjects of one of the belligerent Powers, are excluded from this list."

We give the remaining articles *in extenso*—

"Art. 7. All persons indicated in Articles 4, 5, and 6, engage themselves by their word of honour not to bear arms against his Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias during the whole duration of the present war.

"Art. 8. The inhabitants of the town throw themselves upon the generosity of the Russian Government, which takes them under its protection.

"Immediately the troops have given up their arms, the inhabitants of the town are to send a deputation, consisting of the principal inhabitants of the place, to give the keys to the Russian Commander-in-Chief, and to trust themselves unreservedly to the generosity of the august Sovereign of Russia.

"Art. 9. The public monuments and buildings of the town belonging to the Government are to be respected and left intact.

"It being the principle of the Russian Government to respect the customs and traditions of the people subjected to its government, and especially the buildings devoted to worship, it will not allow any damage to be done to the religious monuments or historical souvenirs of Kars."

The act of surrender, which bears date Nov. 13 (25), is signed by General Williams on the side of the Turks, and by Colonel de Kauffmann on behalf of the Russians.

The following letter from Erzeroum, dated Nov. 27, before the news of the surrender was known, will give the reader some idea of the miserable imbecility and indecision that pervaded the various classes of Turkish officials:—

"Couriers from Kars follow each other in rapid succession, imploring succour in men and provisions. Meanwhile, Selim Pacha has appealed to the surrounding districts for volunteers, and makes preparations for marching in person in the direction of Kars. As long ago as the 9th and 10th, he assigned 1,000 men of the regular troops to take charge of the heaviest guns, and his best horses to be used in the transport of stores. Nevertheless, I regret to say that all preparations are made with a degree of slowness that is intolerable, and utterly incompatible with the critical situation of the brave and devoted garrison of Kars. Moreover, the mountains are already covered with snow, which threatens to descend to the level of the plains, so as to render any movement of the army difficult and

perilous. The Pessimists among us go about saying that there is no longer a possibility of relieving Kars, and that, by this time, the garrison, hemmed in by the enemy's cavalry, and pressed by famine, must either have capitulated, or resolved to attempt to cut their way, sword in hand, through the investing army. But if Selim Pacha is sufficiently active, there is room for hope that Mouravieff may find it necessary to retreat to Alexandropol, to avoid finding himself placed between two fires—the advancing succours and the garrison which might make a sortie.

"The Russian detachment at Deli Baba and Uch Klissia remains in position. A few days ago, Mehemet Bey (nephew of Behlul Pacha, a prisoner with the Russians), who commands the Turkish outposts, had an affair with the enemy, of whom some score were killed and eight taken prisoners, who are expected to arrive here to-day. Mehemet Bey was himself wounded, but not seriously.

"Last Thursday, about 1,000 pack-horses were despatched from here, by the way of Beyburt, to bring in stores, which have been forwarded

succours on our part, inasmuch as the Mushir, Selim Pacha, could not be moved to send them, and that he must look upon himself as abandoned to his own resources. Next day (the 23rd) the General called a council of all the Turkish officers, over which the Mushir Vassif Pacha presided, and representing to them the condition of Kars, and the contents of the despatches he had received, submitted to them the following questions:—Did they believe that the garrison was able to hold out longer? Did they believe that enough of provisions remained to support them for a little longer? Did they believe it possible to meet the enemy in the field? The whole of the Pachas placed themselves unreservedly at the disposal of the English General. The same evening General Williams despatched his aide-de-camp, Major Teesdale, to General Mouravieff, to request a personal interview, with a view to agree upon terms for the surrender of Kars.

"At the same time, Generals Coleman and Kmety left Kars, with an escort of five Kurds, who pledged themselves for their safety, after having



AT KARS.—(A SKETCH BY VALERIO.)

to that place from Trebizond. It is understood that the soldiers already disembarked at that port amount to about 4,000.

"Provisions for the army continue to come in from the surrounding districts. Besides the storehouses, forty of the most considerable mosques are already filled with them, and others are marked out for the depots of corn.

"The Mussulman citizens able to bear arms are ready to follow the army. I need not add that the English officers stationed here, Major Stewart, Major Peel, and Captain Cameron, are in full activity. They do their best to spur on the Mushir to advance in the direction of Kars, but apparently without effect.

"Nov. 28.—Yesterday evening Generals Kmety (Ismael Pacha) and Coleman (Feigi Pacha) arrived here from Kars, which they left three days before. They report that on the 22nd, General Williams had received despatches from this place, to the effect that he need expect no

given in their resignations to our brave General, on the ground that their services there were no longer available. The account they give of the condition of Kars is the most lamentable that can be imagined. For more than a week the women and children had been dying of hunger, and had gone in their agony to the door of General Williams to implore him for food, and to lay their bodies on his threshold. The soldiers were dying at the rate of one hundred a day; the hospitals were crammed with sick, the streets with corpses—all from hunger. Let us hope that General Williams may be able to mitigate the sad termination of the siege; but from what I know of that gentleman, I dread his falling a victim to his sensitive nature.

"The generals who arrived to-day passed the Russian posts in the vicinity of Kars without molestation; on the last day of their journey they had to open themselves a passage, sword in hand, but they have come off unwounded."

It would appear from the foregoing letter that all the enthusiasm, all the energy, all the devotedness of the region, were concentrated within Kars; outside of its forts, all—except in the Russian camp—was sheer trifling and child's play. But in Kars the garrison were heroes to the last. When General Williams—after receiving intelligence from Erzeroum that it was in vain to hope for relief from the Mushir—asssembled the Turkish field officers, to obtain their opinion as to the possibility or expediency of prolonging resistance, these brave men, with true Turkish *sansfroid*, placed their fate implicitly in his hands. Had he said the word, they, with all their soldiers, would have died to a man at their guns, or in the field, fighting hand to hand with the enemy. A strong conviction that to save the place was impossible, and commiseration for the wretched inhabitants, determined the General to surrender. And thus, after six months of heroic endurance, enhanced by repeated displays of desperate valour, the survivors of the garrison of Kars became captives of the Muscovite. The only tenable stronghold of Turkish Armenia is now in possession of the Russians, whose skill in defensive warfare will render it stronger still. The whole region is at their mercy, for their advanced posts are within a few hours of defenceless Erzeroum, with its rich stores of provisions. An advantage has been gained by the armies of the Czar, which will inspire with fresh hope and audacity all the Russians around.

The state to which the town and garrison of Kars were reduced before the capitulation was agreed on, appears to have been painful in the extreme. One account states that 100 men a-day were dying of hunger and privations, and that on the 24th an English officer gave 26s. for a rat. The little meat that remained of the slaughtered beasts of burden was reserved for the hospitals, in which the Russians found 3,000 sick and wounded. On the 27th the enemy sent a large convoy of provisions into the town. Sentries were placed in all the streets for the protection of the inhabitants. According to all the news as yet received, the Russians appear to have behaved well, and even generously. Surgeons, medicines, and other requisites were immediately supplied to the Turkish hospitals. The number of guns taken in Kars is 250, of which 80 are field artillery. Although a letter from Tebizond, from a person usually well-informed, says that General Williams had been ordered to St. Petersburg, other accounts state that the general officers of the garrison were to leave on the 2d inst. for Tiflis, and would probably remain there during the winter. Colonel Schwarzenburg reached Erzeroum, with Kmety and Kohlmann.

LIBERATION OF DR. SANDWITH—RUSSIAN HOSPITALITY.

Erzeroum, Dec. 4.

Dr. Sandwith is at liberty, and we expect him here. Mr. Churchill, secretary, and Zohrah, the interpreter of General Williams, are also at liberty to return here, but it appears that they prefer to follow their chief to Tiflis, and perhaps further.

Yesterday and the day before, there arrived here from Kars Colonel Schwarzenburg, a Belgian, and Major Tashler, an Hungarian, and other foreign officers. They report that on the evening preceding their departure the Russian officers invited them to a great dinner, in honour of the brilliant defence of the 29th of September. All express their gratitude for the humanity and ability displayed by General Williams. They confess that but for his talent the terms of the capitulation would have been far different. It may be said with truth that the siege of Kars ought to have had a different termination. Never did such exalted heroism receive such a reward.

REMARKABLE CAUSE OF THE CAPITULATION.

People at Kars, however, attribute the cause of their being obliged to capitulate to the promises made to them by the Mushir of this place, Selim Pacha. Depending upon these promises they continued in a state of comparative want of energy, whereas, had they been aware that they were to receive no assistance, they would have made such exertions to put an end to the siege as might have been expected from their great but unsuccessful courage.

Our camp at Devi Boynu suffers continual losses, both from disease and from the effect of frequent and serious desertions.

INDICATIONS OF FUTURE MOVEMENTS.

If we are not to remain exposed to the fate of Kars, the Governments of the Sultan and of the Allied Powers ought to despatch immediately a force fully equipped. For some days past we have been visited by Russian spies. It is reported that two are already condemned to be hung. We may infer from the appearance of spies, that General Mouravieff will not be contented with Kars, and will commence operations this winter, or in the coming spring at least.

General Mouravieff has received reinforcements. They consist of about 20,000 infantry, but they are troops unused to war, being levies from the Georgian infantry.

To-morrow we expect the arrival of about 2,500 troops, lately landed at Trebizond, to join the army of Selim Pacha. Of the 12,000 men who were promised us two months ago, we have received as yet scarcely 4,000. Better late than never.

THE REVENUE.		Years ended.		Decrease.		Increase.	
		Dec. 31, 1854.	Dec. 31, 1855.	£	£	£	£
AN ABSTRACT OF THE NET PRODUCE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, for the QUARTER and YEAR ended Dec. 31, 1855, compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year.		Quarters ended.		Decrease.		Increase.	
		Dec. 31, 1854.	Dec. 31, 1855.	£	£	£	£
Customs	5,385,461	5,639,967	4,444,726	1,695,241	1,195,241	1,195,241	1,195,241
Excise	4,444,726	4,391,582	1,786,769	1,323,114	1,260,942	293,272	85,000
Stamps	1,695,241	1,786,769	1,786,769	91,400	91,400	91,400	91,400
Taxes	1,323,114	1,260,942	828,589	494,553	434,553	60,000	60,000
Property Tax	1,260,942	828,589	277,934	550,655	550,655	550,655	550,655
Post-office	293,272	85,000	845,317	560,317	560,317	560,317	560,317
Crown Lands	85,000	173,177	14,210,726	13,360,726	13,360,726	13,360,726	13,360,726
Miscellaneous	845,317	14,210,726	14,882,501	671,775	671,775	671,775	671,775
Totals	14,882,501	14,210,726	14,882,501	671,775	671,775	671,775	671,775

AGREEABLE DINNER.—A traveller in Greece asked a friend if he knew General Tsavella, whom he met at King Otho's dinner-table, and had thought a superior sort of man. He said "perfectly;" that he had been a notorious robber, that he had dined with him at a general funeral feast in memory of Count Capod'Istria, at Patras, where he commanded (or rather robbed) a district. The dinner had lasted a day and a half; the chief guest was a bishop, with two brace of pistols in his girdle, and the rest of the company being similarly accoutred, they ended by firing a ball into the ceiling after every favourite toast; this sport, when all were drunk, became a very nervous one, and he was heartily glad when he escaped unhurt from this extraordinary banquet.

THE MURDER OF MR. STERLING, AT BURNOPFIELD.

OUR readers will remember that some few weeks since we gave a brief account of the murder of a young Scotch doctor, who was shot in broad daylight while walking along a lane near Shotley Bridge in the county of Durham. The crime appears to have been perpetrated for the sake of his watch and some loose silver which the murdered man had in his possession. The inquest which has since been held, and adjourned from time to time, has brought to light the following additional particulars.

The murder, it will be remembered, was committed on Thursday, the 1st of November. On the Tuesday following the body was discovered in a copse near Derwent Bridge. About half-past one in the afternoon of the day of the murder, the report of a gun was heard by some labourers who were at work in a potato-ground abutting on the copse where the body was found. They paid no particular attention to the circumstance, as persons were constantly in the habit of shooting birds along the roadside. There could be no doubt that an atrocious murder had been committed—the question was, who were the guilty men? The police were at fault, and while they were casting about for some point from which they could commence inquiry, it so happened that a number of country people and idle boys were attracted to the scene where the crime was committed. The lads cut off branches of the tree which overshadowed the spot where the body of the murdered man lay, as memorials of their visit. One of them was switching about with his branch, when the end of it caught some leaves which were lying upon the ground, and turned up a glass button which had fallen among them. The glass button was remarkable in this respect, that it had a shank of pure copper. With this glass button in their hands, the police proceeded to the investigation of the case. The only other point on which they could rely was, that the watch which the unfortunate gentleman had on him at the time he was murdered was somewhat peculiar. It was a silver watch with a glass case, and had a silver dial, with raised gold figures in the old Roman character. A kind of wreath encircled the dial. This was all the information which the police could at first obtain. But a cattle-dealer near Gilsland, named Joseph Stobart, soon came forward, and assisted them in some degree with his testimony. He had been walking down the lane in which the murder was committed a few minutes before the deed was done, when, turning round a sharp angle, he came upon two men, whom he has since declared to be the two persons now in custody. He passed on, and presently was met by an active young man, who was walking rapidly. He addressed him, and received a reply delivered with a Scottish accent. This was almost beyond question Mr. Sterling. Mr. Stobart turned off from the lane into the turnpike-road, and almost immediately heard the report of a gun—this was, no doubt, the poor young gentleman's death-shot.

The suspicions of the police fell upon a man named John Cain, whom they arrested. They next proceeded to the house of a woman with whom he cohabited in Newcastle, and seized his clothes. Among these was found a waistcoat, with glass buttons upon it, similar to the one which had been picked up in the copse. The fourth button was wanting. They were all copper-shanked, in pure copper. The man was asked if he had been in the copse since the murder, he said "No." All the four buttons were scratched, the topmost button least so, and so by degrees down to the button which had been picked up, which was scratched most of all. This is the point at which the earlier proceedings at the inquest had left the case. On Dec. 27, these proceedings were resumed in the village of Burnopfield before the Coroner for North Durham, when two prisoners, Richard Rayne and John Cain, were brought to the inquest-room in the custody of a strong detachment of police officers, armed with cutlasses. A large crowd of people had assembled, including a considerable number of blacksmiths and chain-makers, companions of the prisoners. The additional evidence was as follows:—

The first witness called was Alice Raine, whose husband kept a pawnbroker's shop in Gilesgate, Durham. On Friday afternoon, Nov. 2, during the absence of her husband, a man offered to pledge a watch for 30s. She did not take in the watch, not having the silver license. She had no doubt Richard Rayne was the man. He urged her very much to take it, and came down to 4s. There was no one with him. He appeared as if he wanted the money for drink. The watch was peculiar. It had a silver face with gold figures. About seven inches of what appeared like a silk guard were hanging to the end of it. The silk was fringed out and jagged at the ends, as if it had been broken. Until Inspector Henderson brought a paper describing the murder and the articles stolen from Mr. Sterling, she did not mention the matter. The police officer, after leaving the paper, went away, and her husband came into the room and read it over to her, and she immediately said the watch had been offered to her. The policeman was called back, and she gave him a description of the man, and told him all the particulars of his visit. She had about twenty watches offered to her on Nov. 2, and the watch brought to her was so peculiar that she could select it from them all. There was also something so peculiar about Rayne's appearance, that she could distinguish him from the other twenty persons that came to the shop. When Rayne came down from 30s. to 4s., she then took a good look at him.

Ann Watson, servant to Mrs. Raine, identified the prisoner as being the person for whom she opened the door on the afternoon in question. According to this witness's statement, so far as her knowledge went, no other person offered articles in pledge during her master's absence. It was her duty to attend to all rings at the bell.

Andrew Sterling, brother of the deceased, said that his brother left home about eleven days before he was murdered, to join Mr. Watson. He took his watch with him. It had a silver-flowered dial, a small moment hand, raised gold letters, and hands apparently gold. He would not swear to the figures, but he believed them to be letters with "VI" standing for the six. The number of the watch was 3,846; "J. L. W. Todd, No. 1, Tron-gate, Glasgow," was the maker's name. His brother was 25 years old.

Mrs. Raine, on being recalled, said that the watch offered by Rayne had a silver face with gold figures. They were not the same sort of figures as those she kept accounts with.

Thomas Jackson, a gamekeeper, out of place, residing in Gilesgate, Durham, said that on November 2 he was going up that street, about nine at night, when he met John Cain (he knew him by the name of "Whisky Jack"). He was with a tall man. Cain was coming towards witness. Witness was going to speak, but Cain turned his head aside to speak to the other man. Witness believed that Cain knew him, and that he turned his head away to avoid him.

Cain—I will prove you to be a perjured man. Witness mentioned that night, or the day following, that he had met "Whisky Jack." He knew Cain well. He could not identify Rayne.

On being cross-examined on behalf of the prisoner, the witness stated that he had been an attested clerk with his brother as an attorney in Barnard Castle. The last employment he had as a gamekeeper was three years ago. He heard of a great reward for the apprehension of the murderers of Mr. Sterling five weeks ago. It was about three weeks since he heard of the apprehension of "Whisky Jack." It was about a week gone Saturday that the police came and asked him as to his having seen "Whisky Jack" in Durham. He told the police that it was on a Friday night, and in consequence of inquiries he had made since, he now knew that it was on the 2nd of November.

Margaret Watson, wife of a pitman, said that she and her husband were living at Harelaw, near Anfield Plain, on the 16th of November. On that night Cain, who was known to them, came to the house. It was wet and stormy. As they lived in an out-of-the-way place, she asked him if he had heard of the murder of Mr. Sterling. He replied, "Yes, I know all about it." Cain said that the blow on the deceased's skull was not done by a stick, but by the butt-end of a gun. Witness asked if he knew. He replied, "Yes, he knew the place where the murder was committed well; it was 'a populous place' that day." He said that he saw the first man that passed after the murder. He did not say where he himself was. He said that the lane was very woody, and there was a man ploughing on the right hand side and another on the left ploughing up potatoes, with some women. He said the man that was murdered was trailed through the dyke. He did not say that he saw it done. He did not describe the man that he met. Her sister said that she heard Mr. Watson's young man say that there was a jobber that passed twenty

minutes after the murder. Cain replied that it would not be twenty minutes. Witness said that it was a wonder he (the jobber) did not see the blood. Cain replied that it was more spilled on the grass. Cain did not say that he saw the blood. Cain looked solitary while at their house. He stayed there all night.

The next witness was a Superintendent of Police, who deposed that when he apprehended Cain he found a knife in his possession, which knife had since been examined by Dr. Robinson. He submitted to Dr. Robinson at the same time a portion of the inside of the right hand pocket of a waistcoat, which waistcoat Cain admitted belonged to him.

Dr. Robinson, of Newcastle, proved that he had examined both the stains on the knife and the waistcoat, and believed them to have been derived from blood.

The prisoner's solicitor, at this stage of the proceedings, called a number of witnesses to prove an *alibi* on the part of Rayne. These witnesses most completely accounted for his time on the 1st of November, from eleven o'clock in the morning till three in the afternoon. They all agreed in stating that he was at work in his shop at Winton, making naval beef forks, on the day in question. Although the witnesses were, without exception, of the same condition in life as the prisoner, and though several of them were most probably his intimate associates, yet the testimony of the latter was corroborated by independent evidence; and it would appear that the only chance of mistake would be with reference to the actual day on which they saw Rayne at work; nevertheless, several of them satisfactorily accounted for being able to speak with positiveness on this point.

It being now late in the day, the evidence in proof of the *alibi*, on the part of the prisoner Cain, was deferred by his solicitor until the next sitting, and the inquest was thereupon adjourned till the 9th of January.

ROMANCE OF A PUSEYITE CLERGYMAN NEAR BRIGHTON.

SOME years ago, a banker, supposed to be wealthy, resided in a well-known borough town of considerable magnitude in the West of England. The bank, however, failed, and the banker died, leaving behind him a lovely and highly-accomplished young lady, his daughter, penniless. She at once betook herself to the stage, and possessing a charming voice, a beautiful person, together with considerable talent, she was very successful. In or near the same town, there resided, at the same time, a worthy gentleman upwards of sixty years of age, unmarried, but having three daughters by his deceased wife. He engaged the banker's daughter as a companion for them; but he himself became so enamoured of the banker's daughter, that he ultimately married her. Afterwards, they went abroad, and resided for some time in a town on the coast of Spain; but he ultimately returned to England, and bought a villa on the banks of the Thames. While residing here, a young clergyman of the Church of England, belonging to the Low Church or Evangelical party, was a frequent visitor to the house, and accompanied them on visits or excursions. One day, while sailing on the Thames, the boat or yacht was upset. The old gentleman caught his young wife in his arms, and sustained her in the water as long as possible, calling out to the young clergyman to swim towards them and "save her!" and he then sank to rise no more; but the clergyman had reached the lady, and, making desperate efforts, he saved her from a watery grave. Some months afterwards, she gratefully presented the preserver of her life with her hand, and an income left to her by her first husband of £2,000 a year. Subsequently they resided in a small town on the sea coast, not very far from Brighton. Here he was rector of the parish, and built a noble parsonage-house, at a cost of £5,000, on glebe land, where he resided. He had, at the instance, it is said, of his wife, abandoned the Low Church for the High Church party, and gave great offence to some of the old parishioners by the changes he introduced, being what is termed a "Puseyite" or "Tractarian;" but within the last few days this gentleman has embraced the tenets of the Roman Catholic Church, and recanted, it is said, what he now considers the errors of Protestantism. He ceases, of course, to be a clergyman of the Church of England. All his effects at the parsonage-house are to be sold; he loses, it is believed, all interest in the building; and he and his family, it is said, are about to proceed to Italy. As a married man, he cannot be a priest in the Catholic Church, and therefore cannot administer at the altar; but it is understood that in some similar cases converts have been permitted to preach, and that may be all he may desire.

The clergyman above referred to, is the Rev. Mr. Wheeler, vicar of New Shoreham; and his reception by Dr. Manning into the Roman Catholic communion, took place this day fortnight.

NARROW ESCAPE FROM SHIPWRECK.

On the morning of Thursday, Dec. 20, the *Osprey* screw steamer, one of the newly-built vessels of the Cork Steamship Company, left London at 8 p.m., with a large general cargo and a considerable number of deck passengers, commanded by Captain William Tooker. Her passage from London to Plymouth was favourable. She left Plymouth on Saturday morning at half-past 8 o'clock, with an exceedingly large and valuable general cargo, and from 200 to 250 passengers on board, including 10 cabin passengers. The deck passengers were principally sailors, going home on leave from the Baltic fleet, but among them were twenty-two men of the North Cork Rifles, going home for Christmas, and a number of the Limerick Militia. On leaving Plymouth the weather was moderate. The steamer rounded the Long Ships at 4 p.m. The sea at this time ran so high as to beat over the tower of the Long Ships. The gale shortly after augmented to such a degree, that at 8 p.m. the screw propeller parted from the ship—the shaft snapping—and went away altogether. The vessel being deprived of the propeller, Captain Tooker ordered the fore and aft canvas to be set, and kept the ship's head northward. The hurricane blew furiously from the west-north-west, and the sea ran fearfully high, the ship labouring and rolling very heavily. In this manner they remained all Saturday night and all day on Sunday, the storm increasing every moment, with a tremendous sea. The passengers were stowed between decks, the hatches being open at every available moment. On Sunday night the wind increased to such an extent that Captain Tooker judged it prudent to reef the sails; but on the men going aloft to take in the topsail, the mast so strained that they were unable to perform the duty. At one time it appeared as if the entire mast, men and all, would have gone overboard. The gale was fearful—the oldest seamen declared they had never seen the like before; and the captain, who has been thirty-two years at sea, stated that, in his experience, he had never met with so terrible a storm. On Monday, at daylight, the vessel was still kept to the northward. All this time they had seen no lights, and it was next to impossible to know their position; all that could be done was to keep as much as possible to windward, and off a lee shore. At 11 a.m., on Monday, Captain Tooker, who had never left the deck from the time the gale commenced, sighted land ahead, and, on approaching, it was at first supposed to be the Welsh shore. At noon they were still standing in for the land, the ship going not more than three knots an hour. At 4 p.m. Captain Tooker, to the great joy of all on board, discovered the land to be Cork Harbour.

SUICIDE IN DEVON GAOL.—On Wednesday, of last week, J. Row Guscott, of Cheriton Bishop, a farmer, well known in the county, and who had in the previous week been charged before the magistrates with stealing twelve sheep, the property of a neighbour, Mr. Bolt, committed suicide in a most determined manner, in the county gaol. He had twice previously attempted suicide, first by stabbing himself in the throat with a knife which he had concealed under the bed-clothes, on the night of his apprehension at Plymouth, and a second time by attempting to leap from the train by which he was brought to Exeter. On that occasion he suddenly sprang forwards towards one of the windows, and forced himself out, notwithstanding his handcuffs, when the officer caught him by the leg, and, with the aid of others in the carriage, held him fast. But their united efforts could not pull him in, and they were obliged to proceed with him as he was—suspended in a most dangerous position from the window, his body and one leg being outside the carriage and hanging downwards towards the wheels. On the last occasion he was found in his cell hanging by his neckerchief from a bell-handle, which is only four feet from the ground.

WEEKLY OBITUARY.

CAITHNESS, EARL OF.—On the 24th ult., in Rutland Square, Edinburgh, aged 65, died Alexander Campbell Sinclair, thirteenth Earl of Caithness. His Lordship was born in 1790, and in 1813 married Frances Harriet, daughter of the late Very Rev. W. Leigh, D.D., Dean of Hereford, by whom he leaves issue two sons, of whom the younger, Alexander Eric George, was formerly lieutenant in the army, and the elder, James, Lord Berriedale, now fourteenth Earl of Caithness, married, in 1847, Louisa Georgiana, daughter of Sir G. R. Phillips, Bart., of Weston, sister of Viscountess Duncan and the Hon. Mrs. Carew. The late peer succeeded to the title in 1823, and was Lord Lieutenant of the county of Caithness, but never held a seat in either House of Parliament, and took little or no interest in political affairs. His predecessor in the title, the twelfth Earl, was for many years a Scotch representative peer. The first Earl of Caithness was also Earl of Orkney, a title which, though he had inherited it from his father and grandfather, he was compelled to resign, in 1471, to James III. of Scotland, who acquired the lordship of the Orkney Isles by his marriage with Margaret of Denmark, and had them annexed to the Crown by an act of the Scottish Parliament. The earldom of Orkney was revived at a later date, viz. 1696, by William III. in favour of one of the Douglas family, and it still remains in their descendants in the female line.

CONDOR, J. Esq.—On the 27th ult., at St. John's Wood, died, in his 66th year, Mr. Josiah Condor, formerly proprietor and editor of the "Eclectic Review," and for 25 years editor of the "Patriot" newspaper. He was the son of a London bookseller, and his grandfather was president of the Old College at Homerton. His first publication consisted of some juvenile contributions to Dr. Aikin's *Athenaeum*, which were afterwards published in a small volume, called "The Associate Minstrels," which reached a second edition. Together with his literary pursuits, Mr. Condor, through a long and useful life, took an active part in the public movements of the Protestant Dissenters.

KRASINSKI, COUNT V.—On the 22nd ult., at Edinburgh, died, Count Valerian Krasinski, a native of the ancient Polish province of White Russia. He was known in his native land as having been chief of the Ministry of Public Instruction, and having in that capacity brought forward many liberal and enlightened measures. He established a College for Jewish Rabbis, and introduced stereotyped printing. On the breaking out of the Polish insurrection in 1830, he was sent into England on diplomatic business, but was reduced to poverty by the catastrophe of 1831. He soon, however, set himself to work in order to gain a literary reputation here; his first attempt being an English translation of the well known Polish novel "Sigismund Augustus, or Poland in the Sixteenth Century," which met with so favourable a reception, that he was encouraged to write an original work of greater pretension, the "History of the Reformation in Poland." This work was soon translated into French and German, and procured him an European reputation, and especially attracted the attention of the King of Prussia. This he followed up by the "History and Religions of the Slavonic Nations," and many minor pamphlets on the Polish and Russian question. He was well known and esteemed among the literary circles of London and Edinburgh.

WILBRAHAM, MISS E.—On the 21st ult., at Brighton, died Emma, sister of the late George Wilbraham, Esq., of Delamere House, near Nantwich, who was many years M.P. for South Cheshire. This lady was sister-in-law to the late Lady Anne Wilbraham, daughter of the first Earl Portecuse. She was daughter of the late G. Wilbraham, Esq., of Delamere, Cheshire, by Maria, daughter and heiress of the late William Harvey, Esq., of Chigwell, many years M.P. for Essex.

NEALE, LADY.—On the 21st ult., at Blackheath, died Lady Neale, widow of the late Admiral Sir Harry Burrard-Neale, G.C.B., of Wallmouth, Hants. Her Ladyship was Grace Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of the late Robt. Neale, Esq., of Shaw House, Wilts., and was married, in 1795, to the late Gallant Admiral, who assumed her name on the occasion. The late Sir Harry Burrard-Neale was M.P. for Lynington from 1813 to 1823, and also in the first Reformed Parliament, and dying without issue in 1840, the baronetcy devolved upon his brother, the present Sir George Burrard, who is in holy orders, Rector of Middleton Tyas, Yorkshire, and one of the Royal Chaplains.

BRENTON, MRS.—On the 22nd ult., at Ryde, in her 76th year, died Henrietta, wife of Rear-Admiral John Brenton, and sister of the late Vice-Admiral Sir Jabez Brenton, Bart. The father of the deceased lady, as well as her brother and her husband, was an admiral in the British navy, and married, in 1765, the daughter of Jos. Cowley, Esq., and grand-daughter and heiress of Thomas, Lord Pelham, an ancestor of the present Earl of Chichester. The name of Sir Jabez Brenton will long be remembered as the friend of Nelson, Jervis, Pellew, and Collingwood.

WEDGWOOD, J. Esq.—On the 19th ult., aged 66, died John Wedgwood, Esq., of Nile Street, Burslem, a relative of the late Mr. Wedgwood, of Etruria, in the Staffordshire Potteries, whose name has been given to a branch of our national manufactures. The deceased gentleman, we believe, was the last representative of the various branches of the Wedgwoods of Mow House and the Harpells in Staffordshire, through John Wedgwood, Esq., who married the wealthy Miss Gregory, and died in 1776.

HALE, R. H. Esq.—On the 20th ult., at Alderley, Gloucestershire, died, Robert Henry Blaydon Hale, Esq., in his 76th year. The deceased gentleman was a Magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant for the county of Gloucester, and married in 1807 the late Theodosia Eleanor Bourke, daughter of Joseph, 3rd Earl of Mayo, and formerly Archbishop of Tuam, by whom he leaves issue a son, Robert Blaydon Hale, Esq., who has sat as M.P. for West Gloucestershire since the accession of the late Duke of Beaufort to his title in 1835. The Hales, of Alderley, are descended from the great Sir Matthew Hale, formerly Chief Justice of the King's Bench, who was born at Alderley in 1609.

THOMAS, REAR-ADMIRAL F.—On the 19th ult., at Hill, near Southampton, died, Rear-Admiral Frederick Thomas, a younger son of the late Sir John Thomas, Bart., and great uncle of the present Baronet. He entered the navy at an early age, and in 1816 married Susanah, daughter of the late Arthur Atherley, Esq., who was M.P. for Southampton from 1832 to 1834, and by whom he leaves a family of two sons and three daughters. He had not been afloat since the last war; and was placed upon the list of retired Rear-Admirals in 1846.

BANKES, MISS O. E.—On the 16th ult., at Kingston Lacy, near Wimborne, Dorset, died, Octavia Elizabeth, daughter of G. Bankes, Esq., M.P. for Dorset, in her 23rd year. She was grand-daughter of the late Sir Charles E. Nugent, G.C.B., Admiral of the Fleet, and niece of the late William John Bankes, Esq., who represented the University of Cambridge in Parliament from 1821 to 1826. The family is descended from Sir John Bankes, Lord Chief-Justice of the Common Pleas under Charles I., and a zealous adherent of that king, and whose wife nobly defended Corfe Castle, during her husband's absence, against the rebels, and only surrendered the place when it was betrayed. The family of Bankes have represented Corfe Castle and the county of Dorset for nearly two centuries.

SAUMAREZ, N. Esq.—On the 18th ult., in his 90th year, at Trefusis Terrace, Exmouth, died, Nicholas Saumarez, Esq., last surviving brother of the first Lord de Saumarez, better known as Admiral Sir James Saumarez, the comrade of Hood, Howe, Jervis, and Nelson. The deceased gentleman was a younger son of Matthew de Saumarez, of Saumarez, in the Isle of Guernsey, whose father sailed with Lord Anson in his memorable expedition to the South Seas, and fell in command of her Majesty's ship *Nottingham*. The deceased gentleman formerly held the lucrative post of collector-general of the revenue in Ceylon, and lived and died unmarried. He was uncle of the present Lord de Saumarez. The family, which is of Norman extraction, is of great antiquity in the island of Guernsey, one of its members having been captain of the Castle of Jerbourg there under Edward III.

BELL, LADY C.—On the 18th ult., in Upper Hyde Park Street, died, Lady Catherine Bell, in her 76th year. The deceased lady, who was the daughter of the first Earl of Malmesbury, and aunt of the present peer, who was Foreign Secretary under Lord Derby, was married in 1831 to Lieutenant-General Sir John Bell, K.C.B., Lieutenant-Governor of Guernsey, formerly aide-de-camp to King William IV.

LEEDS, DOWAGER LADY.—On the 25th ult., at Ryde, died Eleanor, Dowager Lady Leeds, widow of the late Sir George W. Leeds, of Croxton Park, Cambridgeshire, and daughter of the late O. Rowley, Esq., of Priory Hill, Hants. Her Ladyship was the second wife of the late Baronet, who was raised to the title in 1812, and step-mother to the present Baronet. She leaves issue four surviving children, Louisa, who is married to Sir Henry Oglander, Bart., of Parnham, and three sons, Edward Rowley, an officer in the E.I.C. service, and Augustus Frederick, who is married to Miss Savage, a niece of Sir James Brooke, the Rajah of Sarawak.

KING, HON. G.—On the 21st ult., at Fryern, Sussex, in his 73rd year, died the Hon. George King, son of the sixth and brother of the seventh Lord King, of Ockham, Surrey, and uncle of the present peer, who married Ada, "sole daughter" of the poet Byron's "house and heart," and was advanced, in 1838, to the earldom of Lovelace. Mr. King married, in 1808, his first cousin, Charlotte, daughter of N. Trevellick, Esq., of Horsham, by whom he has left two unmarried daughters, and two sons, one of whom is captain in the 27th Foot, and the other, a commander R.N., was married to Louisa, daughter of the late James Harriot, Esq., of Kamezie, county of Fife, but was left a widower about two years ago.

THE LATE MR. ROGERS.—Till an accident confined him to his chair, Mr. Rogers continued to be an attendant at the Opera, the Ancient Concerts, and, when these died out, at the Exeter Hall Oratorios. Till a very late period, he might be seen at midnight, feebly hurrying home from these on foot—no matter what the weather—thinly dressed, and as resolute of the slightest offer of attendance as was "the Duke" when he was scarcely able to mount his horse. The passion for pleasure did not forsake him till a very late period. Only a few years since a street accident, caused by this imprudent manner of wandering home alone, sentenced him to a chair for the rest of his days.

OUTRAGE ON THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKRUPTCY.—A strange scene occurred in the Court of Bankruptcy on Friday last week. A respectably dressed man went into the Court, uttered some words in an incoherent manner, and threw two oranges at his Honour, but fortunately did not do any injury. The man was at once secured, taken out of Court, and detained, in order that inquiry may be made as to who and what he is. There is every appearance of his being disordered in his intellect.

THE LATE THOMAS CUBITT.

THE late Thomas Cubitt, who died at Denbies, his mansion in Surrey, on the 26th ult., in his 68th year, was the son of a labouring man at Buxton, in Norfolk. He was thrown upon his own resources in early youth, and never had the benefit of a regular education. Yet, through a clear head, steady perseverance, and strict integrity, he rose rapidly into public notice, lived a useful and laborious life, and died a *millionaire*, or something like it.

It is said that his father's death occurred when Thomas was only 18 years of age, and that he was at that time a journeyman carpenter. Soon afterwards he got a place as ship's carpenter, and went out to India in that capacity. During the voyage out and back he contrived to lay by some savings, and with this small capital started as a carpenter in London. At this trade he worked for some five or six years, when he made a successful speculation by erecting workshops and commencing business on a larger scale as builder, near Gray's Inn Road. While here, and before he was brought into public notice, Thomas Cubitt built the London Institution in Finsbury Circus. In 1823 he contracted with the late Duke of Bedford for improving his property near Bedford and Tavistock Squares, the neighbouring streets of which were his first attempts at building on a large scale. Two years later he entered into a similar arrangement with the late Marquis of Westminster (then Earl Grosvenor), and the late Mr. Lowndes, for erecting mansions on their property in Belgrave and Knightsbridge, which he carried out with great taste and skill. His reputation as a builder was now established. When the late Mr. Kemp began to build at Brighton, it was Mr. Thomas Cubitt who designed, and, we believe, also, who executed the laying out of Kemp Town. His services, also, were in demand in laying out and building the new park at Clapham. Subsequently he undertook the erection of the mansions of Southern Belgrave; and Warwick and Eccleston Squares, and their vicinity, bear witness to the energy with which he carried out his plans.

Mr. Cubitt was one of the first persons who proposed a comprehensive plan for the drainage of London by carrying the sewerage to a point in the river far below the City. He was also a strong advocate of other sanitary measures, such as the prevention of smoke, and the appropriation of open spaces in the suburbs, as parks for the people. When her Majesty determined upon the reconstruction of her Marine residence at Osborne, it was to Mr. Thomas Cubitt that she entrusted the work, and we may add that the skill and taste shown by him there and elsewhere, earned for him the very highest opinion of her Majesty and Prince Albert.

Mr. Cubitt held, for some years, the honorary post of Examiner of Candidates for London District Surveyorships, and was also at one time President of the Builders' Society. Himself a working-man, he felt for, and was the friend of, the working classes, as is shown by the workman's library and school-room which he erected at Thames Bank, and the forethought with which he devised a plan for supplying his labourers, on the premises, with little necessities and luxuries for their homes. He was a liberal benefactor to schools, churches, hospitals, and other charities in London and in his native county, and thoroughly endeared himself as a friend to his own workmen.

The "Builder" records a pleasing instance of Mr. Cubitt's equanimity and kindness. His large premises at Thames Bank were burnt down last year, at a loss of some £30,000. He was telegraphed for to London, and arrived while the buildings were in flames. His first words, on entering the premises, were, "Tell the men they shall be at work again in a week, and I will subscribe £600 towards buying for them new tools." He had only recently completed his contracts in Belgrave Square, and put the finishing hand to his mansion, Denbies, when he was seized with his fatal illness. He leaves a widow and a family of sons and daughters, now grown up, we believe, into manhood and womanhood. His brother William, who succeeded him in his business in Gray's Inn Lane, is an Alderman for London, of which he was Sheriff in 1847, a magistrate for Middlesex and Surrey, and has been member for Andover since 1847.

APPALLING MACHINERY ACCIDENT.

A SHOCKING accident, which resulted in the death of a young man, named Thomas Nuttall, occurred last week, at the works of Messrs. Robinson and Son, Oldham Road, Rochdale. It seems that the unfortunate deceased was attempting to place a strap over some driving pulleys that set in motion the machinery of a large saw-mill, when the pulley, lapping round the surface of the large pulley, fastened him upon the surface, and carried him round at the rate of not less than 100 revolutions per minute, on the upper surface, dashing him against the edge of a strong beam beneath the floor above, distant about 18 inches, and on the under surface dashing him against the floor, distant about a foot. One of the poor fellow's feet was smashed to pieces—parts of it being found in different parts of the room. The other foot was also broken off at the ankle, and hung only by a small bit of skin. An arm was broken right off at the shoulder. Before the engine could be stopped, the unfortunate man's body was thrown off the pulley, and fell on the floor, half-way between the large and small pulleys. In the course of twenty minutes Mr. Crompton, surgeon, was on the ground. Several times he asked his fellow-workmen to lift up his feet and to lift up his arm. By the advice of the surgeon he was allowed to lie where he fell, and in three-quarters of an hour his sufferings were terminated by death.

THE QUEEN AND THE CRIMEAN OFFICERS.—Her Majesty the Queen is making a collection of photographic portraits of the more distinguished officers engaged in the Crimean campaign. Her Majesty's sympathy with her wounded soldiers is well known, as also is the hospitality and gracious attention shown to the officers who have returned to England on leave or otherwise. To this, her Majesty has added the compliment of expressing a wish to have a photographic portrait taken for the royal portfolio. The artist who has been entrusted with the taking of the pictures is Mr. Mayall, the well-known photographer of Argyll Place, Regent St. The most recent addition to the royal collection is the portrait of Sir Colin Campbell. The gallant general sat a day or two since; and, in spite of a fog by no means favourable to such operations, Mr. Mayall succeeded in producing a remarkably fine and characteristic likeness.—*MORNING POST.*

THE RUGLEY POISONING CASE.—Some anxiety is felt on the subject of the money which it is supposed Mr. Cook must have had in his possession on his return to Rugby from Shrewsbury. The probable amount is estimated at £1,000 and upwards. At present only £15 and a few shillings have been accounted for.—£10 paid by Mr. Cook to Mr. Saunders, the trainer, and £5 odd found in Mr. Cook's pockets after his decease—and the question naturally arises, what has become of the remainder? The police have discovered that within a few days of Mr. Cook's death, Mr. Palmer paid to respectable tradesmen in Rugby two notes of £50 each, and two other notes of £50 each were changed at the Bank at Rugby by his groom. The numbers of three of these notes are known (two of them, in fact, having been impounded), and we append a description of them, as the means probably of discovering to whom they were paid in the first instance. One of these notes is of the Newmarket Bank, No. A. 200, dated, 1st October, 1830; another is a Bank of England note (London), No. JH. 66,341, dated, 8th June, 1855, and it has on the back of it the names of "White, Ludlow, and Co." and "Gregory and Son," with the date 12. 11. '55, and on the face of it the name of (apparently, the writing not being very distinct) "Woolens and Co.," date 11. 11. '55. The 11th and 12th days of November (the eleventh month) fell, it will be remembered, in the week in which the Shrewsbury races were held. The third note is also of the Bank of England (London), No. JH. 48,108, and dated, 8th June, 1855; on the back of it is the name of "Henckel, S. J.," and on the face of it "Herries." The rumours of Mr. Palmer's death led to the authorities of an insurance office, in which his life is insured for £5,000, writing to a person in Staffordshire to ascertain the truth of it. The policy, in that instance, has been transferred to a solicitor at Birmingham.

CHARGE OF BURGLARY.—The man Palin, who was acquitted at the Maidstone Assizes a fortnight ago, of the murder of Jane Beagley, at Cudham, was brought up in custody, on remand, at the magistrates' office, Thornbury, Gloucestershire, on Saturday last, charged before Messrs. Townsend, Howard, and Davies, with on the night of the 18th of August last, burglariously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Miss Jane Shepherd, at Buckover, near there, and stealing therefrom several articles of wearing apparel, and 10s. in money, belonging to her brother, Henry Shepherd, as well as some provisions and wine, her property. The prisoner Palin, who looked as if in ill health, was residing at the house of a returned convict on ticket-of-leave, named Mark Wheeler, who has since Palin's arrest on the charge of the murder, been recommitted by order of the Secretary of State for the remainder of his sentence. Great interest was manifested to catch a glimpse of Palin while on his way to the magistrates' office, which was crowded with spectators. Several witnesses were examined, and the prisoner fully committed to await his trial at the next Gloucestershire Assizes for the offence.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND AND HIS TENANTRY.

THE Duke of Northumberland, it is said, though heretofore enjoying the character of a good landlord, has recently issued an instruction to his tenants, laying down rules as to his granting of future leases, which rules they describe as "most stringent, arbitrary, and even 'impossible' in their character." The consequence is, that the tenants are in arms, and hold indignation meetings, and pass resolutions, pledging themselves to resistance. One of his best farmers, Mr. Wetherell, of Kirkbridge, rather than comply with them, has thrown up his farm; and others, sympathising with his spirited conduct, held a meeting at Richmond, and resolved to present Mr. Wetherell with a testimonial, and to circulate the obnoxious conditions all over the kingdom. The meeting was held on the 17th ult., and adjourned to the 24th ult. It was then resolved to protest against the new regulations as being "impossible to be fulfilled, some as degrading and tyrannical, in placing their property under the control of an agent, who is made his own umpire in case of dispute, and most of them as reverting back to the principles of feudalism and serfdom." It was also resolved:—"That from the independent manner in which Mr. Wetherell, of Kirkbridge, his Grace's leading tenant, has accepted his discharge rather than sign those conditions, a testimonial be presented to him, to mark the approval by his agricultural friends of his conduct, and their sympathy and regret at his having to leave a farm which, by his spirited management and outlay, had been placed in the position of the best cultivated farm of the district, as proved by a public award of a premium of £30 given by the Duke of Northumberland during the last summer." It was also resolved to circulate a copy of the agreement, letters, &c., and to raise a subscription, and to form a committee to carry out the objects of the meeting.

At the meeting the correspondence between Mr. Wetherell and the Duke was read. Mr. Wetherell, in his letter, dated Oct. 19, 1855, states that he had expended all the skill and capital that he could command, in cultivating and improving his farm, which he could no longer continue to do under the new regulations. He says, "By the 3rd clause I am to lay on twenty tons of manure on each acre of turnip land, and by clause 8, twelve tons on each acre of meadow. I have calculated that this would require me to produce from my farm 1,160 tons of good rotten manure yearly. I can assure your Grace that my farm could not produce one-half this quantity, even adding to it the oil cake, guano, bones, linseed, horses' corn, straw, lime, &c., which have cost me on an average £300 yearly; hence, I should forfeit a penalty of £350 each year, simply for not performing an impossibility. I entreat your Grace to allow the 6th clause, which requires all the manure produced to be expended on the farm, to stand in lieu of the 3rd and 8th, which are really impracticable in my case." The letter throughout is couched in terms, not merely of respect, but of extreme humility; but, nevertheless, it seems that it was not honoured with a written reply. Mr. Wetherell, however, waited on the Duke, who received him with great courtesy, but positively refused to entertain any of the objections which Mr. Wetherell had made to the regulations; and even be more false, inappropriate, clumsy, futile, transitory? In Regent Street, when he, with peculiar rural obsequiousness, offered to sign the agreement if the Duke would give his word that he (Mr. Wetherell) would take no harm from it, the Duke repeated his positive refusal. "This," says Mr. Wetherell, "is all the reply I got to my letter to his Grace."

MARSHAL PELISSIER AMID THE RUINS OF SEBASTOPOL.

WHEN the people of France and England were elated with the news that Sebastopol had, at length, fallen; when the Tower guns were firing, the church-bells ringing, provincial towns in a state of joyous enthusiasm, remote villages blazing with bonfires, and the inmates of cottage and castle moved from the even tenor of their way, the French Government, not unmindful of the comfort of those who had achieved the victory, were hopeful that the soldiers of the allied armies, or at all events a portion of them, might find winter-quarters within the ramparts of that frowning stronghold, which had so lately appeared as a menace to the weaker powers of Europe.

Without any unnecessary delay, workmen, masons and carpenters, were embarked at Marseilles for the Crimea, with the object of clearing away the ruins, and rendering the captured town in some measure habitable. It would appear, however, that the great French soldier, who had pressed on the siege to a successful termination, was somewhat sceptical as to the feasibility of this benevolent scheme. Accordingly he undertook a thorough inspection of the interior of the place, whose fall is so intimately associated with his military fame; and our illustration, from the able pencil of Gustave Doré, represents Marshal Pelissier and his staff, as they appeared on the occasion.

Sebastopol, when thus visited, was a mass of white ruins, streaked and barred with black smoke. There was just enough of the Gibraltar of the Euxine left to enable observers to conjecture what Sebastopol had been. Some of the freestone edifices had looked fair enough at a distance, but, on closer inspection, it appeared that they had not sufficient interior left to render habitation possible. The whole town, in fact, was rent, sacked, and "gutted," and rarely, indeed, were rafters and flooring found entire. Most of the houses had been razed to the floor by the artillery of the besiegers, and the remainder, for purposes of defence, razed by the besieged themselves.

Indeed, the damage sustained by the town was, on the close inspection of the brave Pelissier and his Staff, found to have been so severe, that the project of the troops wintering in Sebastopol, was abandoned.

Most striking, perhaps, among the objects presented to the stout French Marshal's keen eye, were the sunken line-of-battle ships, whose spars and masts rose, done to the topmast yards, above the blue waters of the Black Sea. There were charred remnants of the celebrated bridge of boats; in the dry docks were the beggared remains of steamers destroyed by fire; and scuttled boats, with half-consumed vessels of small tonnage, lay near the wharves and quays. Across the harbour, on the heights, not two miles from the shore, appeared the tents of the Russians; and with the aid of a glass, even individual officers could be observed passing from the forts and batteries to the camp.

A green-roofed mansion, which had often been seen by the English soldiers during their experimental advances, was tenanted by a French General, to whom the command of part of the town had been given; and a sentry was posted at its door. The inclination of the many persons who wished to spend a quiet, snug day in Sebastopol was diminished by the knowledge that there was a positive order against going into the town, and that Marshal Pelissier had declared his sentries would shoot any persons who might be found in the streets in disobedience of that injunction. Passes it was said would be issued from the Adjutant-General's department, without which all persons would be stopped at the entrances to the works. Matters, it would appear, have lately been made more pleasant in this respect, if we are to judge by the letter of a correspondent of a daily paper, who writes, under date the 10th ult.:—

"It is said to be difficult to get into the French part of Sebastopol without a pass. I have been several times, and gone over every part—Malakoff, Redan, Flagstaff, Doeks, &c., and down so near to Fort Nicholas as to be in great danger from the shot from Forts Constantine and others—and yet have never been stopped. Yesterday I spent several hours in strolling among the ruins, and saw several very nice hotels. We went into one—the Café de Paris—kept by a very pretty and modest young woman known as the Bella Piemontese. There were seven of us, very hungry. We warmed ourselves at the fire, had some beautiful white bread, excellent cheese, and two bottles of good champagne, with liqueur after; the glasses and everything were clean. We ate very heartily, cut some walking-sticks from the garden, and to our great surprise were only charged 18f., less than half what would be charged at Constantinople. The shot and shell pass completely over this house, and occasionally burst most inconveniently near, yet no one seemed frightened, though I confess I was a little uncomfortable, and galloped as hard as possible while in sight of Fort Constantine in the street enflamed by its guns.

"The French have had three balls in Sebastopol, one a masquerade, and very gay I understand they were: the ladies not the least nervous.

"The French evidently do not think of quitting the Crimea, by the way they are building at Kamiesch, and the defences they are throwing up round it; in fact, it is quite a small Marseilles—a French town in every respect."



MARSHAL PELISSIER AND HIS STAFF VISITING THE RUINS OF SEBASTOPOL.

(DRAWN BY GUSTAVE DORE.)



NEW YEAR'S DAY IN PARIS—THE FAMILY BREAKFAST.



NEW YEAR'S DAY IN PARIS—INTERIOR OF A CONFECTIONER'S SHOP.

NEW YEAR'S DAY IN PARIS.

SUCH of our readers as have been familiar with the customs north of the Tweed, may readily form a faint idea of the feelings which prevail among the inhabitants of Paris when New Year's Day arrives. It is the signal for mirth and jollity, feasting and dancing, festivities and balls, kindly presents and reciprocal compliments; and every man makes a point of banishing care and enjoying himself as he best can in the sphere to which he belongs.

New Year's gifts are bestowed in the capital of the Seine with a profusion which the residents find somewhat inconvenient; indeed, of all imposts, none are regarded as more irksome than those to which Parisians are liable on the 1st of January, and many persons deem it prudent to be "not at home" when the year closes. Even this requires some courage; and it is only people, determined not to be plundered, who save themselves by a timely flight, pretend to make a journey of the utmost urgency, and, while supposed to be in a distant part of France, lurk about some village in the suburbs of Paris till the dread season is over.

Others, however, make a heroic effort, screw their courage up to the sticking point, and remain to be fleeced by friends, acquaintances, domestics, and children; and some such hapless beings are represented by our illustrations on another page. One of these is the family breakfast on New Year's Day; the other the interior of a confectioner's shop, where papers of *bonbons* and such things are presented with grace, and accepted with gratitude.

"At New Year's Day," writes the author of "Parisian Sights and French Principles seen through American Spectacles," "they expect, with all the rest of the world, that have ever been paid for services rendered, the gifts of the season; but unlike the rest of the world, they are generous out of their scanty resources, in making the little ones about them happy, by tasteful presents of their own make or selection. I was greatly amused on this anniversary, after having given the customary contributions of money and good wishes, to teacher, domestics, porter, porter's child, letter-man, newspaper carriers, and I do not know how many others, to see the stately *Seigneur* of the Madeleine, march in with a bun on a silver waiter, by the present of which he modestly hinted, that he was not above the love of filthy lucre—at all events, once a year."

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1856.

MILITARY EDUCATION.

"JACOB OMNIUM" (by which pseudonym society knows a gentleman of much ability, and whose acquaintance with the world makes him very fit to write on such subjects,) has been writing to the "Times" on Military Education. The year begins with warlike topics; for, much as it is to be hoped that ALEXANDER will listen to reason and to Count ESTERHAZY, we must be prepared for the worst. NAPOLEON has a large army forming, which, they say, may march towards the Rhine long before the Cockney tourists get there. Besides, though we should get rid of the present war, we cannot do without soldiers, and our soldiers, everybody says—and some of themselves most loudly—don't know their profession. This must be remedied; and there is a chance of remedies being possible, now that war has driven the Manchester School into a corner, and we see that their notions are quite unfit for governing Europe in times of excitement.

The way in which officers are admitted generally into the armies of Europe is through colleges, where certain advantages attend a certain amount of proficiency, and where commissions are given as the rewards of study. There is no such system, we all know, in England. A few officers have had special educations. The majority get in, partly by money, partly by interest,—are drilled for a certain time, and then turned loose into their barracks, to rise by more money and more interest as they best can. Accordingly, it may be supposed that, out of little everyday details, hundreds of them know nothing of war or the history of war, or could tell you, for instance, how Lutten or Blenheim were lost and won, or when Vauban was born and died. How far French, drawing, mathematics are common accomplishments among them, may be perhaps equally doubted. What nobody doubts, is, that they are brave and honourable men; and however absurd the work they are set to, they go at it grandly. But this—as has been said a hundred times—is not all. We want an accomplished profession, fit for all emergencies, and this is what we have not got. The English people are not widely curious about military matters, nor accustomed to military spectacles. A young Englishman is more likely to have political ambition than military; the commercial instinct is strong, and the commercial interest delights to snub soldiers—or did delight, till their sneers were silenced by the news of the Alma. The upper classes have never pushed the matter as they might have done; for, of what is going in the army, they get plenty, and they generally only push those popular matters which tell in elections. No wonder, then, that war found the army system in anything but a satisfactory state.

By way of improving it, education is strongly urged, and the favouritism with which promotions and appointments are given is strongly reprobated. "JACOB OMNIUM" says "we must give all men, who stake their lives in their country's service, an equal chance of the prizes of that service." This is extremely reasonable in principle. We want such men as JACOB, then, to propose a system of military schools, into which all lads shall be able to go on proof of some military promise—out of which they shall go into the army, on acquiring commissions in a fair professional competition. This may be a hard matter to devise, but we have seen no proposal yet made which does not involve still greater difficulties.

First—for promotion from the ranks. This involves the simple objection that the ranks, as they are at present, afford a man no chance of getting such a superiority as entitles him to a commission. Recruited as they are, they keep aspiring kind of men out. If you urge that we should begin by promotions to encourage people to enter, you plunge into difficulties which are certain, for the sake of improvement which is uncertain. The army is officered by a class, who, according to the customs of England, are socially superior to the class below them. This is not a distinction peculiar to the army; it is common to every town and every house in England. A gentleman does not associate with his groom; and what a gentleman is to a groom, an officer is to a private. This was the old Duke's difficulty—the social one. He never meant to say that the class from whom privates come does not contain men fit to be officers; he meant that, as you find them gathered for you by the recruiting officer and drilled by the sergeant, they are not the kind of men who can live with the officer class in such intimacy as a mess demands. "He said he had tried it"—we quote "JACOB OMNIUM"—"and that it did not answer; that officers so promoted were quarrelsome in their drink, and were not a class of men who could be endured in the society of the other officers of the army." This was not the aristocratic view only—it was the man-of-the-world and practical view. State it sensibly and properly—not as a haughty fool would state it—and you will find it confirmed by privates themselves.

"OMNIUM" here goes into the question about officers being gentlemen—which was, of course, at the root of the Duke's remarks—and gives the affair a more purely political colour than, in our opinion, belongs to it.

What is meant by officers being gentlemen? What is a gentleman? In strict historic signification, it means simply a man of family, like the French *gentilhomme*; but it has long lost that sense in England. Our army is by no manner of means exclusively officered by men of family. When a man enters as a "gentleman," it only means that he is not the son of an individual actually engaged in keeping a shop. It amounts to this, that he has been—if not professionally educated for the army, or in learning—at least "liberally" brought up, among men and women of education and refinement. This fact—not his descent—constitutes the barrier between him and the less fortunate private. It is strengthened too, generally, by his possession of money, which divides classes quite as effectually as ever did heraldry or etiquette. A brewer's son in the Dragoons is as far removed in personal sympathy from a private as a Somerset or a Chatillon.

Now, in a country where rank and money are worshipped, the notions which belong to rank and money will pervade all institutions. Differences of education and bringing-up will be felt, do what you will. But establish military schools, where the man of poor and obscure birth, and narrow means—the man whose natural parts would, if developed, fit him for the higher walks of the army—shall enter early and be trained for the profession; do this, and you obviate the difficulty, without violently disturbing existing forms. So trained, his manners will fit him for any mess, and his superiority will procure him respect. Compulsory examinations, too, would put his more prosperous brethren on their mettle, and the introduction of such would quicken the blood of the service. We do not believe that the "Upper Ten" would "retire in disgust from the public service" were such gradual and reasonable changes introduced; at least, such men as did so declare themselves incompetent would not be very much missed.

MORBIDITY GRATIFIED.

In another part of our paper will be found an account of a fearful murder, committed by a drunkard in a state of *delirium tremens*, on the person of his wife on Boxing Day. Some of the daily papers, in their anxiety to pander to the morbid feelings excited by such a deed, have thought fit to publish a letter written by the poor wretch to a near relative, and dated from his cell in the House of Detention. This letter, we have no doubt, has been obtained from the White-chapel Police-station by some over-zealous penny-a-liner, whose zeal, however, is, in our opinion, to be no more commended than is his discretion; and if our supposition be correct, we think the police authorities greatly to blame. Why are the public to be admitted to all of this wretched criminal's domestic secrets? Why is his anxiety for his poor orphan children to be bruited abroad, just for the pecuniary advantage of a newspaper of questionable taste? The murderer happens to be wearing a waistcoat of more than ordinary value when he is taken into custody, and because he requests a commoner one to be sent to him, that his better garment may be pledged to provide temporary sustenance for his almost famishing children, this is all to be made public through newspaper and police instrumentality. Even his request for the luxury of a little butter for his dry bread is duly chronicled, that people may know on what kind of dainties a murderer pleases to feed. It is true that, by calling attention to the matter, we are ourselves helping to give greater publicity to those objectionable details; still we hope more good will come of our rebuke, than harm arise from the allusion we have felt forced to make to this private letter of an unhappy criminal.

A FREE CITY.

A FREE city, or any free state of limited dimensions and resources, among a nest of despotisms, is in about as enviable a condition as a free cat in the midst of a kennel of ill-fed hounds—with a slight difference in favour of the cat, which can climb over a wall, while a city or state cannot.

Mr. Julius Campe, of the firm of Hofman and Campe, well-known liberal booksellers of Hamburg—a free city—has been mixed up with the publication of "A Secret History of the Courts of Germany," in which allusion has been made to the Court of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, divulging "many scandalous transactions" in connection with that illustrious establishment. For these the author of the book has been prosecuted, and Mr. Campe, the publisher, kidnapped—that is to say, arrested and put in prison, contrary to all precedent or licence recognised by the constitution of the free city of Hamburg.

Mr. Julius Campe is in the common goal, amongst thieves and pick-pockets, in defiance of the law of Hamburg, but in obedience to the wishes of the House of Mecklenburg-Schwerin (backed, we presume, by a powerful friend or two). Of course, Hamburg is in a ferment, much as London would be in the event of Mr. Longman, or Mr. Murray, or Mr. Bentley being sent to the Millbank Penitentiary for an unproved civil offence—supposing the House of Mecklenburg-Schwerin (or any other petty German power, according to circumstances) to be more in the ascendant here, than fortunately happens to be the case. But, unfortunately for Mr. Campe, Hamburg is not London, and we cannot hold out to him any particular hope of popular indignation at Hamburg doing much towards obtaining his release—the existing "European system" being considered.

Of course, the "Balance of Power" is a most important and mysterious thing—utterly beyond our province of investigation. And there can be no doubt that such details as Bomba, and the Duke of Lucca, and the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, are indispensable features to the symmetry of the great whole. But, in a public school, if the

smaller boys will rob and bully the smallest boys, and the bigger boys will not interfere to keep order in the playground—ought not the ushers, or, in extreme cases, the head masters, to step outside for a moment, and see about it?

HIS MAJESTY KING PHEASANT.

A FEW nights ago, a gamekeeper in the employ of Sir Edmund Walker, of Bury Hill, Notts, came across three poachers, in a preserve—one had shot a pheasant. The valiant keeper, regardless of the vicinity of his two comrades, closed with him single-handed. Poacher number two came up with a clasp-knife, and tried to stab the gamekeeper, succeeding in doing so to a slight extent. Poacher number three came up with a loaded gun, put it to the gamekeeper's head, and fired—the latter fortunately "ducking" in time to avoid the shot. The three made off, and have not yet been apprehended.

That those three poachers were unmitigated rascals, there can be little doubt. It is still more certain that the keeper was a brave and even heroic fellow—willing to sacrifice his life in the performance of a duty to which he had pledged himself. But was the cause of strife proportionate to the sacrifice of the most worthless of the four lives risked on the occasion?

We have left off hanging people for stealing great coats and snuff boxes, though no doubt many hanged for such offences richly deserved it. Is it not time that the Supreme Power of King Pheasant—for life and death over the British Rustic, Gamekeeper, or Poacher—should be seriously enquired into?

"CROWNER'S" QUEST LAW.

At the inquest on the body of the unfortunate woman Corrigan, a daily contemporary informs us that—

"Mr. Edward Burton, mathematical instrument maker, of 47, Church Street, Minories, the person in whose house the murder was committed, was called. He was completely overwhelmed with grief and anxiety."

"The Coroner (with some harshness)—'Now, lay aside all that, and tell us what happened.'"

A little further on we find that—

"Mrs. Elizabeth Fenon, the sister-in-law of the murdered woman, was brought into court, and was so fearfully agitated, that she could not utter a word. The coroner told her that she must put aside that sort of thing, as she was on oath."

Leaving the comment of the reporter (or right to comment) on the Coroner's manner out of the question, was not the very words, however they may have been uttered, a conviction of harshness on the part of that functionary? The first witness is a respectable tradesman, in whose house, on the occasion of a Christmas party, a murder was committed by one of his guests on the person of another, that guest the wife of the former (both his intimate friends), the witness's own wife having been wounded in attempting to interfere between the murderer and his victim. The second witness is the "sister-in-law of the murdered woman," evidently acquainted with all the domestic troubles that had led to the dreadful catastrophe—herself also an eye-witness to the murder.

Surely two people, so painfully situated, might have been allowed to give way to some natural emotion, even at the sacrifice of valuable time and patience on the part of a coroner and jury! With every allowance for the possibly erroneous colouring of a newspaper reporter, we are bound to accuse Mr. Payne of a want of delicacy and forbearance. Justice is, after all, only humanity on a large scale, and, surely, its comprehensive exercise cannot require the utter negation of its minor amenities.

HOW CONTEMPORARY HISTORY IS WRITTEN.

A BIOGRAPHICAL notice of Colonel Sibthorpe has recently appeared in the "Constitutional," which is of so original a character that we cannot deny ourselves the pleasure of translating and printing it. It has excited much attention in Paris, and some surprise has been expressed by Englishmen at the more than usual ignorance of English affairs which the memoir exhibits. The French journalist must, we should think, have been imposed upon by some correspondent in whose good faith he placed implicit reliance. We subjoin the interesting article translated *verbatim*—

"Colonel Waldo de Laerdo Sibthorpe, whose death we lately announced, was not, as was said by several journals, member for the city of Lincoln, but for the borough of Old Sarum. He was, as his name indicates, of French origin, which explains the feeling of friendship which he always entertained for our country, and which was shown in all his speeches and writings. Colonel Sibthorpe entered the Royal Navy at the age of fifteen, and he took part in the greatest naval battle of our age—that of Navarino, where he received a slight wound in the left eye, but not having much inclination for the life of a sailor, he quitted the profession, and entered the Indian army. In the terrific battle of Ferozonghabosh, and at the assault and capture of Whakker, the regiment in which the young Captain Sibthorpe served had the honour of leading the attack. After the submission of the Sikhs, he entered the service of the King of Oude, when he commanded the irregular cavalry of that monarch. At the head of these troops ('irregular horse marines') he distinguished himself in several actions, and was present at the East Indian Company with the only decoration which it can bestow—the Golden Key of the Brahmin's (called in English, 'The Bramah's Golden Donkey'). Colonel Sibthorpe returned to his native land about ten years since, when he was elected to the House of Commons by the votes of his fellow-citizens. From the commencement of his political life he held a high position in this assembly, which was justified by his varied attainments, his brilliant wit, and his freedom from prejudice. He belonged to the Tory party. The death of the Colonel is much regretted by his neighbours; and the English journals have published numerous eulogiums on the illustrious deceased. The enormous fortune left by the Colonel, reverts to his son-in-law, Mr. Chisholm Anstey, who is, at present, the Director of the East India Company, and 'Common Councilman.' The family of Colonel Sibthorpe came from Dieppe."

THE NEW LORD AMPHILL.—Baron Parke retires from the Bench, and goes to the House of Lords, with the title of "Lord Amphill." Amphill, from which Baron Parke takes his title, is a small market town in Bedfordshire, situated eight miles South of Bedford, and three miles from the Marston Station, on the Betchley and Bedford Railway. At Amphill House, which is very near the town, Baron Parke has resided for several years, but the house is not his property. The "Times" says that the Amphill estate formerly belonged to Lord Carteret, and now belongs to the Thymes; but this is an error. It some years back belonged to the Earl of Upper Ossory. It then came into the hands of the late Lord Holland, and of him or his successor, it was purchased by the present Duke of Bedford, whose tenant "Lord Amphill," now is. The estate which formerly "belonged to Lord Carteret, and now belongs to the Thymes," is the Hawnes estate, situated about four or five miles eastward of Amphill. At Amphill Castle, situated in the park, but long since destroyed, Katharine of Aragon resided, whilst her divorce suit was pending. The site of the castle is marked by an obelisk on which is an inscription written by the Earl of Oxford. The present house was built by the first Lord Asburnham in 1694. The park is small, but exceedingly picturesque, and chiefly remarkable for its ancient oaks. So far back as 1653, 287 trees in the park were declared by Parliamentary Commissioners to be hollow, and unfit for the use of the Navy. Most of these still remain; now entirely hollow, but still, every spring sending out green leaves. Many of them are very large, measuring from 15 to 30 feet in girth. Most of these trees must be at least 800 years old. Close to Amphill Park, separated from it only by the high-road, is Houghton Park, where may be seen the ruins of a splendid mansion built by "Sydney's sister, Pembroke's mother."

JENNY LIND'S ENGAGEMENTS.—There are a variety of statements abroad in the papers as to the terms of this vocalist's engagement with Mr. Mitchell. The "Revue et Gazette Musicale de Paris" says that Mr. Mitchell has engaged Miss Jenny at the rate of £500 for each concert; but the "Musical World" says that the paper is out in its reckoning—that the speculation is not Mr. Mitchell's, but Madame Goldschmidt's own, and that he has simply undertaken the direction of it. Others assert that Mr. Mitchell has engaged Madame Goldschmidt and her husband for twenty weeks, and for that period they are to receive £20,000, on the condition that they perform at three concerts in each week, and it is also stated that an eminent musical firm offered to give Mr. Mitchell £5,000 for his engagement.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

ACCOUNTS FROM TREBIZOND, of the 11th, state that the British Ambassador at Tiberias had broken off all relations with the Persian Government, in consequence of some personal offence.

THE REMAINS OF SAMUEL ROGERS were interred on the 27th ult., in Hornsey churchyard, in a family vault, which was built some years since on the death of the poet's brother, and where a sister, who died last year, is also buried.

MISS NIGHTINGALE remains at Scutari, and proposes, it is said, dividing her time this winter between that place and the Crimea.

THE PRESENCE OF THE Queen-Dowager of Holland at St. Petersburg is thought favourable to the reception of the Austrian propositions—and the Empress-Consort being the great advocates for peace at the Russian Court.

MR. OLIPHANT has re-published his pamphlet on the Trans-Caucasian provinces, as a field of military action for the Allies, with a new preface.

CAPTAIN GLEIG, of the Royal Artillery, now in the Crimea, will immediately return home to assume the duties of Deputy Inspector of Military Schools, to which he has been recently appointed.

SIX POLITICAL JOURNALS are published at St. Petersburg every day, the principal of which is the "Invalide Russe," the military official organ, edited by Colonel Lecheff, of the Staff, professor of the military academy.

IN CONSEQUENCE OF the large supplies of country-killed meat that arrived in the metropolis last week, a great portion of which was injured by the frost and sudden thaw, the butchers in the principal markets reduced the price of beef 1d. in the pound, and mutton and pork 1d.

DURING the making of the Panama railway, an American paper says that 6,000 Irishmen died.

SIR GEORGE GREY intends, it is said, to bring into immediate operation the Juvenile Offenders Act of last session, for enforcing payments from the criminal parents of offenders, towards the cost of their support in reformatories.

THE MARRIAGE OF M. CRUVELL, whose real name it appears is Cruvell with Baron Vigier, son of Count Vigier, ex-Peer of France, has been posted up at the Marie of the 1st Arrondissement, Paris.

MR. G. P. PATMORE, author of "My Friends and Acquaintances," has lately died.

THE COMMITTEE formed many years ago at Asti, for the purpose of gathering subscriptions towards a monument to Alfieri, have collected a sum sufficient for their object.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS have reported in favour of a division of the diocese of Durham, but have kept for further consideration whether the new See shall be established at Newcastle or Hexham.

KING LOUIS OF BAVARIA has presented to the Empress of Austria a picture, representing full-sized portraits of all the brothers and sisters of his Majesty, painted by M. Stieler, the Court painter.

SHEEP-STALKING is at present so common in Kent, that one of the local papers lately proposed as a remedy the provision by the authorities of a couple of "County Bloodhounds!"

THE GAMING-HOUSES of Aix-les-Bains, in Savoy, have just been suppressed.

THE PRESBITERIAN OF IRELAND have originated a movement for the purpose of securing an efficient representation of their interest in Parliament.

A CAMP of 40,000 men, it is authoritatively stated, will be at once formed at Cherbourg, and another of 20,000 at Brest.

LORD STRATFORD, it is stated, has proposed the union of Moldavia and Wallachia, under the government of an hereditary prince, with a national army.

SIR GEORGE GREY met with an accident last week, while hunting in Berkshire, his horse having fallen, and broken the small bone of his arm, just above the wrist.

THE KING OF HANOVER has abolished trial by jury for political offences in his dominions.

A WELL-KNOWN PUBLISHING FIRM of New York, advertise "Lives of Judges, infamous as tools of tyranny and instruments of oppression," by John Lord Campbell, edited, with an Introduction and Notes, by Richard Hildreth.

GENERAL WILLIAMS and his Staff, it is believed, will be transferred at once to St. Petersburg.

M. KOSKUTH's contributions to the "Atlas," ceased with a farewell address published on Saturday last.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON's gift of £400 to the poor of Windsor, was distributed last week among 900 families, under the supervision of a committee formed by order of the Queen.

GENERAL WILLIAMS, the gallant defender of Kars, although connected with several northern families, has no immediate relatives in England, his family being now resident in America.

SIR EDMUND LYONS, who has just been promoted to the rank of Admiral, is said to be about to set out for France, leaving the command with Admiral Fremantle.

MR. DEHENY, second master of H.M.'s screw gun-boat Lynx, was, on the 11th ult., tried by court martial for cowardice, exhibited during the attack on Kinburn, found guilty, and sentenced to be hanged.

THE GOVERNMENT, it is calculated, when army agencies are abolished, and the business transferred to the war department, will gain to the extent of £100,000 annually; the pay for army agents being £300 per annum for each regiment, and £600 for regiments having two battalions.

AN IMMENSE GUN is in course of construction at the Mersey Steel and Iron-works, Liverpool, which, when finished, is expected to weigh 24 tons; will be 15 feet long, 13-inch bore, and will project a ball of 300lbs. a distance of five miles.

PROFESSOR OWEN, the distinguished naturalist, has just received the decoration of the Legion of Honour, in which he holds the rank of Chevalier.

MR. W. THOMAS, of Raiton, Sussex, has despatched to his brother, Major Thomas, of the Royal Horse Artillery, now in the Crimea, a pack of fox-hounds, for the purpose of hunting the Russian foxes.

A SOTREE is to be given to Messrs. Gibson and Bright, the Members for Manchester, presided over by Mr. George Wilson, on the eve of the re-assembling of Parliament.

GENERAL SCARLETT arrived this week at Malta, on his way to England.

LORD PANMURE has directed that the title of Secretary-at-War be no longer used, and that in future his Lordship is to be addressed only as Secretary of State for War.

A RUSSIAN SPY, of singular skill and audacity, has just been arrested in the neighbourhood of Kadi Kani, after figuring in so many different disguises, all of which appeared so perfectly natural, that he had twenty times deceived the watchful eyes of those in pursuit.

SIR T. COCHRANE, K.C.B., on Monday last, struck his flag on board H. M. ship Victory, as Commander-in-Chief of the Portsmouth station, his term of office having expired, and next morning the flag of Sir G. F. Seymour, K.C.B., G.C.H., was hoisted on his accession to the post vacated.

THE PACHA OF EGYPT has again permitted the exportation of corn.

MR. MONCKTON MILNES, M.P., delivered a lecture on poetry at the Wakefield Mechanics' Institution on Christmas Eve.

LARGE DEPOTS for troops are being formed on the shores of the Baltic.

MR. HEADAM, the Postmaster of Newcastle, has recently absconded; but the deficiency in his accounts does not exceed a few hundred pounds, which will be made good by his sureties.

THE PORTS have sent an order to Smyrna for the immediate execution of the two Greeks who murdered the seaman belonging to the French brig of war Olivier.

THE LYCEUM THEATRE at Sunderland has recently been destroyed by fire.

THE "LIVERPOOL TIMES," the oldest, and one of the most influential of the Liverpool papers, is about to be given up by its present proprietor, Mr. Thomas Baines, in whose hands it has been for twenty years.

SIR RODRIGUE I. MURCHISON has been elected an associate of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Brussels.

THE SHIPMENTS of specie from Great Britain to the East during the present year, have amounted to £7,358,161, the proportions being £948,272, gold, and £6,409,889 silver.

AT A RECENT MEETING of the Manchester operatives, at present on strike, a communication from the Barbers' Society was read, promising their assistance, but expressing a hope that the operatives who wished to support their own prices, would not patronise the half-penny shaving shops.

CURED PROVISIONS put up in hermetically sealed canisters, are in such demand, that one establishment (the Messrs. Hogarth of Aberdeen, from whom the French Government receives most of its supplies) are killing as many as 60 fat cattle a day, besides using immense quantities of fish.

LOLA MONTES is at present in Melbourne, whither she went from San Francisco, and has appeared several times with little success at the New Theatre Royal.

JOHN INSON, the sculptor, a native of Trieste, whose magnificent studio was one of the attractions of Florence, died there on the 19th ult.

ALEXANDER DUMAS, the younger, is writing a comedy in five acts for the Gymnase, to be called "Sa Majesté le Million."

LONDON STREET ARCHITECTURE.

WHICH of us in his heart of hearts admires Oxford Street or Regent Street? Forget for a moment the immense wealth contained in the warehouses that line these busy thoroughfares—forget that the streets are paved with gold—and look up calmly at those plastered walls and wooden pillars, and festoons of stucco flowers, and say whether, in the nature of the materials or of the forms into which those materials are wrought, anything can be more false, inappropriate, clumsy, futile, transitory? In Regent Street, it is true that there is some attempt at regularity of outline. Oxford Street makes no such pretension; but the pretentious formality, the regiments of pillars and houses in the one, are even more unhappy than the graceless disorder, the mob of house and pillars in the other. But a worse fault than the unsightliness of the buildings, the inappropriateness and uselessness of the Corinthian pillars stuck on the fronts, is the falsehood of all this decoration. It is all paint and plaster—below are good bricks; and, as the Red Indian paints his face with vermilion and yellow ochre, our merchants dab their shop fronts with mortar, and mark it with lines, so that it may have the appearance of large stones. Compare the fronts of these houses with the backs; the front is all smiles and hypocrisy—the back tells the ugly truth that the great mass is got up for show. People who do not regard these things minutely, who, perhaps, have never thought of them, or have become hardened by their constant presence, have little idea to what an extent this trixery of architecture is practised. In churches roofs are constructed of wood which it would be impossible to pose in stone, and for the sake of a transitory surprise the wood is painted like stone, so that every moment we expect it to drop on our heads. Is it worth purchasing this miserable surprise at the expense of the disgust which follows? It is a recommendation of this undurable style of architecture that it is not very durable, as may be inferred from the girders and other iron supports by which the walls are riveted together. But this, in fact, is the crowning proof of the absurdity of the whole system of building. How many houses in London are built to last more than 100 or 200 years? Contrast London with Rome—the Eternal City. Three hundred years hence the present architecture on the banks of the Thames will be as clean swept away as wigwags on the banks of the St. Lawrence.—*The Times*.

THE PANTOMIMES.

IT seems to be a point of honour among the theatrical critics of the daily and weekly press, never to abuse what are known as "holiday entertainments," be they ever so bad. The precise reason for this forbearance I cannot understand; perhaps these censors reflect that the production of a Christmas or Easter piece involves the sinking of a large amount of capital, which would be utterly lost should the public, warned off by the notices in the newspapers, decline to patronise the theatre; perhaps the managers, astute and wary fellows, send white-breasted turkeys and fattened geese to the houses of those gentlemen who "represent" the "Thunderer," the "Daily Nuisance," and the "Morning Post?" perhaps the critics themselves, with the recollections of the previous day's good cheer still vividly before them, are in such good humour that they can find no fault, and merely note down the most egregious failure as a "slight hitch!" Be the cause what it may, it is certain that the columns of the newspapers are filled with eulogiums, and the puzzled Paterfamilias, after diligently perusing them all, can get no hint as to which theatre will be the most amusing to those young ones who are anxiously expecting his decision. But I, who have met with no particular attentions, and am of a plain-speaking turn, will tell you exactly how I have been impressed at the various theatres which I have visited during the week.

On Boxing-night I went to COVENT GARDEN, and found that the advertisements, bills and puffs of Mr. Anderson had drawn together an audience which filled the theatre from floor to ceiling. The Wizard's "Magic and Mystery" commenced the entertainment, and was received with shouts of delight by the pit and gallery, over whom he appears to possess a special power, and who are rewarded by him with perpetual glasses of gin and whiskey out of his inexhaustible bottle. Many of his tricks were neatly done; he is quick, and his sleight-of-hand is invisible, but he depends more upon mechanical aid, such as trap-tables, electric action, &c., than did Houdin or Robin. However, he left the audience well pleased and ripe for enjoyment, telling them that there would be an interval of fifteen minutes between his retirement and the commencement of the pantomime. Here was mistake No. 1. Full half-an-hour elapsed before the orchestra was "rung in," and then commenced an overture, such as I trust I may never hear on boxing-night again. "The music composed by Mr. Loder, who has obligingly lent his aid on account of the pantomime being produced at this theatre," say the bills—"Save me from my obliging friends" must Mr. Anderson have said, when he heard the overture and incidental music to his pantomime. Not a tune that the gallery could recognise and stamp the accompaniment to; no "Red, White and Blue" or "Partant Pour la Syrie," no lively "Villikens," or plaintive "Ratcatcher's Daughter." A solemn and classical fugue preceded the pantomime, which in itself was a solemn but unclassical performance. I do not think I have ever sat through any thing more dreary than the first two scenes of the "Belle Alliance, or Harlequin Good Humour and the Field of the Cloth of Gold," which showed as the "Cavern of the Gnome Britannicus," one of the old style of Tories alarmed at the notion of England ever cultivating a foreign alliance; and the "Land's End, Cornwall," where the said Gnome is met by the Spirit of Good Humour, who foretells the good feeling which shall one day exist between England and France, and in two pale badly-lighted dissolving views, shows the Emperor Napoleon's arrival in London, and Queen Victoria's visit to Napoleon's Tomb. The third scene, the deck of the "Great Harry," might have been made a great hit; as it was, it was only rescued from being hissed by the excellent acting of Mr. Pearson, who played Henry the Eighth, in a way second only to Mr. W. H. Payne. His make-up was capital—his voice good, and he entered into the part with rollicking spirit. He danced a hornpipe capably (though to some newly-invented air of Mr. Loder's—not to the good old-fashioned tune); he hitched up his trousers, and rolled and roared in true nautical fashion. The masks throughout were excellent, particularly those of Cardinal Wolsey and Queen Katharine, who were capital caricatures of Mr. Kean and Miss Cushman. We then had the interior of the Chateau of Francis the First, with Mr. Shalders as the very bad representative of the French Monarch; and the "Field of the Cloth of Gold," which introduced men in armour on mechanical horses. The armour was good, the horses were bad, the tournament was a dead failure, and the whole affair began to grow so slow that the gallery was aroused, and the sibilations commenced. There was a very dreary scene, a corridor in the chateau, where the two monarchs, each smitten with the charms of a rustic beauty, strive to overreach each other; and then came a long wait. Voices were heard shouting and swearing behind the scenes, gas-lights flickering in the crevices of the "flat," a rumbling of machinery, drowned by the howling of the pantomimists, and, finally, the audience, finding that there was a hitch, hissed most lustily. Mr. Anderson came forward and apologised, stating that the theatre had been at his disposal but since the previous Wednesday, and succeeded in restoring partial good humour. After some minutes the machinery was put into working condition, and the great scene, "The Abode of the Fairy Queen in the Golden Groves of Good Humour," stood revealed. It is good, but certainly not up to the usual Beverley standard; it seemed, however, to delight the obstreperous pit and gallery; and the transformations were effected in the midst of great applause.

Of the comic scenes I cannot give much report, as, when I left the theatre, at half-past twelve, only two had been given. I saw enough, however, to convince me that the Harlequin was well-dressed, nimble, and a good dancer; that the Columbine was pretty; that the Pantaloon was not bad, and that the Clown, Mr. Flexmore, was what I have always thought him—a good grotesque, a clever dancer, and an agile man, but utterly devoid of humour or genuine drollery. In conclusion, I must state my opinion that a great deal of money has been injudiciously spent; that the subject for the opening was neither well-chosen nor well-pursued; and that had there been more fun and less puffing, the Pantomime at Covent Garden would have been a much greater success than it really is.

I am glad to be enabled to speak in much more laudatory terms of my experience at DRURY LANE. For the commencement of the evening we had Charles Mathews in "Jattle Toddekins" and afterwards in a capital farce, called "Trying it on," where, in his anxiety to take hold of and meddle with everything, he tries on a diamond necklace, which becoming a clasp, slips down his back, and is finally found in his boot. Those who have seen Charles Mathews can imagine his agony to get his boot off, and his despair, when the necklace has been discovered, at the impotency of his attempt at getting it on again! The pantomime, which was preceded by a glorious medley overture, is by Mr. E. L. Blanchard, author of "Harlequin Hudibras," &c., and certainly the best writer of pantomimic entertainments now living. He has this year chosen a capital subject, viz., "Shakespeare's Seven Ages of Man," and has treated it excellently. In the first scene we are shown the "Halls of Nursery Rhymes," where King Nonsense is seen surrounded by Jack Horner, Boy Blue, Bo-peep, Humpty-Dumpty, and other loved ones of our childhood. To them enter Common Sense, and having rid themselves of Routine and Red Tape (two capital made-up figures), they enter into a compact to furnish the holiday entertainment. In the next scene the "Village of Prettiwell," with distant view of the church and surrounding country in the early morning, is one of the prettiest landscapes I have ever seen on the stage. Here is the episode of the "Schoolboy." We have the academy of Dr. Birch, his method of teaching, of dealing with laggards, and of appropriating the gifts sent to his scholars, all duly displayed to us. The third scene shows us Young Hopeful as the "lover," who, in despair at his fair one's cruelty, becomes in the fourth the "soldier," and enlists into a very ragged-looking militia regiment. A review of this band takes place, which is attended by two rustics, who leave their work for the purpose, and are accordingly taken before the "justice," and duly imprisoned. In the next scene, the lovers, who have escaped from the justice-hall, are found at the "Ruined Cottage of Old Age," in a dull, wintry landscape, when they are pounced upon by the indignant father of the young lady and the husband of her choice, an old schoolfellow of Young Hopeful, who possesses a large fortune. The Spirit of Love, however, appears, and, aided by Nonsense and Common Sense, sets all things square by converting the various characters into a double set of Harlequins, Clowns, Columbines, Pantaloons, and Sprites. Before taking leave of the opening portion of the pantomime, I must commend Mr. E. L. Blanchard for the language he has employed, which is quite fitted for burlesque, and in many places much too good to be roared through big masks, and consequently lost. Mr. Tully must have a good word for the discrimination shown in the selection of the music, all of which was intelligible to the pit and gallery, and duly appreciated by them. Miss Rosina Wright must be specially praised for her admirable dancing in a ballet, the background to which was one of Mr. Beverley's best bits of painting; and as for Mr. Beverley himself, I can find no words strong enough to express my admiration of him. Every one recollects what he did at the Lyceum, where it was thought he had attained the perfection of his art. At Drury Lane, he is even yet more wonderful. The extraordinary depth of the stage gives him more scope for his effects, and the result is that, in the transformation scene, the "Bright Realms of Perpetual Summer," he has been enabled to produce a combination of colours, lighting, and grouping, such as has never before been witnessed. I was grieved to find that the enthusiasm of a portion of the audience led them to call for Mr. Smith, and that his bad judgment induced him to appear on the stage. I give him every credit for the spirited manner in which he has produced this pantomime, the best I have yet seen; but the sight of a stout gentleman in a red velvet waistcoat, in the midst of the "Bright Realms of Perpetual Summer," and surrounded by Fairies and Cupids, certainly dispels all romantic illusions.

The comic business is also very good, and the double set of pantomimists being never on the stage together, but working in alternate scenes, do not clash as might be expected. The Harlequins, Columbines, and Pantalons, are above the average. One of the Clowns (Mr. Boleno), is grotesque and agile; while the other (Mr. Tom Matthews), is the true grimace-making, sausage-stealing, maid-kissing, public-persecuting friend of our childhood, and unquestionably the best of his class now extant. There was more thought in the "business" of the scenes than I generally find, and two of them, supposed to occur in Paris at the time of the Exhibition, representing the siege of a Café, and the bed-rooms at an hôtel, were excellent. The only thing wanted in the Pantomime is compression. The ballet in the opening is too long, while much of the comic business is a repetition, and could be advantageously dispensed with.

The Pantomime at the HAYMARKET, though new to London, was written by Mr. Buckstone some two years ago, and produced by Mr. Copeland at the Theatre Royal, Liverpool. It is founded on Mr. Roscoe's poem of the "Butterflies' Ball and the Grasshoppers' Feast," and affords scope for some beautiful scenery, and capital insect dresses. The plot of the story is, that the Lady Silverwing, the Queen of the Butterflies, has two lovers, the Grasshopper, the favoured, the Wasp, the rejected one. Irritated at the manner in which he is treated, the Wasp procures from the witch Belladonna, some poison, which he intends to mix up with the food cooking for the forthcoming feast. He is, however, disappointed, by being routed out of the kitchen by the cooks, and by breaking his bottle of poison. Not vanquished, however, he repairs to the feast with his friend the Spider, and prevails upon Belladonna to change the scene (the Haunt of the Butterflies), to a cold, wintry, Mont Blancish plateau. Here all the insects are nearly frozen to death; but the Good Gnome arriving opportunely, the scene is changed to one of Beverleyan brightness, and the usual transformations take place. I am afraid that the opening is almost too good—too poetical and pretty for a general audience, who are much more entertained by big heads and hard knocks, than by romantic scenery and picturesque dresses. The comic portion is certainly not too good for anybody, being encumbered with bad tricks, a long military ballet, and the dreariest Clown it was ever my bad luck to behold!

The entertainment at the ADELPHI, called a "coalition" between burlesque and pantomime, beginning with the first and ending with the second, is not a hit. In the words of a gentleman who, occupying the front row of the pit, was immediately behind me, it is a "dull thing." The story is founded on "Jack and the Bean-Stalk," that ill-used tale, which, having been watered by Mr. George Cruikshank, is now ditch-watered by Mr. Mark Lemon. The Giant is enacted by Mr. Paul Bedford, who endowed the part with all the roars, grimaces, and buffoonery, the delighted reception of which by an Adelphi audience has spoilt a good bass singer, and made an originally heavy actor even more ponderous than nature designed him. The Spirit of the Harp is played by Miss Mary Keeley, who sings charmingly the charming "Gasser Waltz," and the Golden Hen finds a lively good-humoured representative in Miss Kate Kelly. Poor Mr. Bland, the ex-king of burlesque, speaks dolefully the jingling rhymes and far-fetched puns which are set down for him; and Madame Celeste, I daresay, does the same, but I am unfortunately not versed in the idioms of the language which has been given her to disguise her thoughts.

In the harlequinade much praise is due to all concerned. Madame Celeste and Miss Wyndham look and dance well as Harlequin and Columbine, Messrs. Garden and C. J. Smith are good as Clown and Pantaloon, and several of the tricks, particularly that one in which the Clown is shot out of a Lancaster gun, are well managed.

I have little to say of the pantomime at the PRINCESS'S, founded on the "Maid and the Magpie," but that little is laudatory. Mr. Kean deserves great credit for the liberality and tact with which his Christmas entertainments are conducted; there are never any hitches, and the company are always well up in their work. The best scene of the whole is a parody on the banquet in "Henry the Eighth," in which all the parts are sustained by children.

The illustrations in page 12 represent various scenes I have described—the deck of the "Great Harry" at COVENT GARDEN, and the interviews between the Magpie and the Fairy at the PRINCESS'S, King Nonsense and Common Sense at DRURY LANE, the Giant and the Spirit of the Harp at the ADELPHI, and Belladonna and the Wasp at the HAYMARKET.

I have now told all about the pantomimes this side of the water; next week you shall hear of the OLYMPIC burlesque, and the Christmas pieces at the transpontine theatres.

THE LOUNGER.



CHRISTMAS PANTOMIMES, 1855.—(DRAWN BY M'CONNELL.)

THOMAS B. MACAULAY, M.P.

THOMAS BABINGTON MACAULAY is—though one would not think it from the way in which he writes of the Highlands—of genuine Highland breed. His grandfather was the Rev. John Macaulay, Minister of Inverary, whose name occurs in Boswell's "Tour to the Hebrides," as having talked with Dr. Johnson. His father, Zachary Macaulay, will be long remembered in connection with the great Slavery Abolition movement. This gentleman planted the old Highland tree in English soil; and Thomas Babington was born at Rothley Temple, Leicestershire, in 1800. Macaulay received his education at Cambridge, and distinguished himself from early youth by the brilliancy of his parts. He won the Craven Scholarship, and, in 1822, became a Fellow of Trinity—both great distinctions. He also became conspicuous at the "Union" as a debater, and thus exhibited very early the various talents which have made his success and his reputation. We believe that the Whig potentates were not long in seeing his promise or encouraging it, and that he wanted from the first, none of that kind notice which cannot indeed create genius, but which assuredly helps to develop it.

His first success of a decided character in public, was the Essay on "Milton" in the "Edinburgh Review," for August, 1825. This exhibited all his peculiar powers—the picturesque force, the pungent antithesis, which are his chief characteristics. He is scarcely a man of great imagination, but he has great acuteness and some imagination; in fact, just the amount of brilliancy necessary to adorn sharp common sense. Sometimes in those early days he was far too violent. He has not reprinted his attacks on the elder Mill, nor some articles during the exciting years preceding the Reform Bill. He eagerly joined in the hot Reform movement; and as his bent towards politics has always been as strong as his bent towards literature, as his abilities were early ripe, and the period was stirring and tumultuous, he got into Parliament at thirty years of age. Burke was older, and Canning younger, when each made his *début* there. Burke had not Macaulay's advantages in several points; Canning had talents, not perhaps more remarkable in some ways, but more suited to English political life.

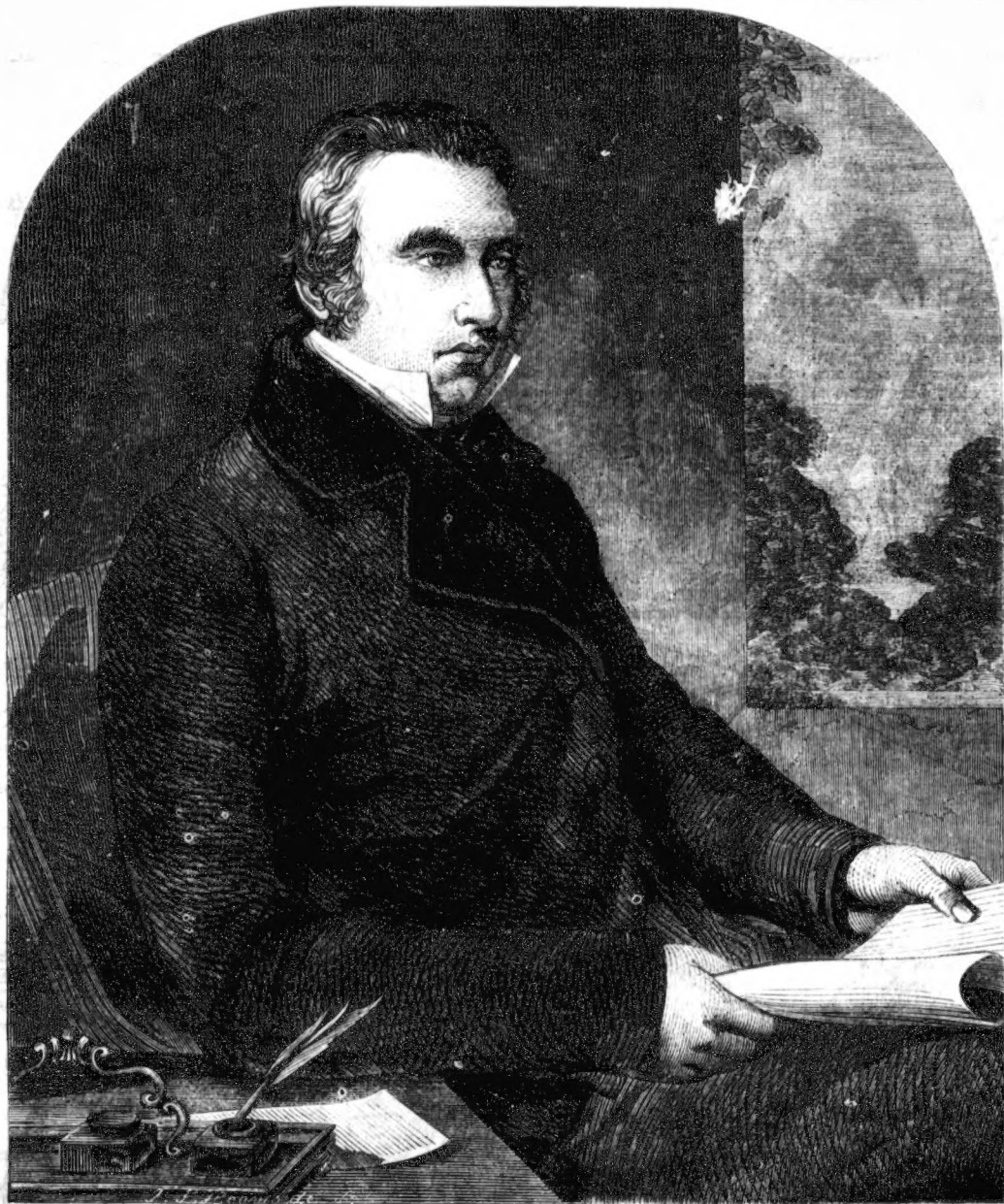
Macaulay owed his first seat to the old Borough system which he helped to destroy. The Marquis of Lansdowne brought him in for Calne, in Wilts, in 1830. He made his maiden speech in support of a motion for the repeal of Jewish Disabilities, on the 5th of April of that year. It was not very long nor very good, but it was well received, and highly praised. His Parliamentary Reform speeches—March, July, September and December, 1831; and February and March, 1832, were more brilliant, gained high success, and deserved it. His speaking resembles his writing more than is commonly the case. His power lies in putting the arguments even more than in finding them; in illustrating by contrasts and comparisons, and in a happy and witty way of bringing in apparently remote and really relevant "cases in point." No question that he effectually served the Reform Bill. Meanwhile, he had successes of another kind. He was a talker as notable, as he was a striking speaker, and a brilliant writer. His memory has always been prodigious. Sydney Smith (as everybody knows), called him "a book in breeches." This has often been unfairly applied. So much is true, that he is a man enormously indebted to his reading. But his talent for popularising the results of reading is at least equally conspicuous, and this talent no pedant ever possesses. The *bon mot*, then, is only true as against Macaulay the talker, with his long memory. Sydney admitted later that his friend had "flashes of silence" as he grew older, which made him "delightful."

Macaulay had been early (1826) called to the Bar; and he was not long in gaining substantial marks of the esteem in which the Whigs held him. After the Reform Bill, he was elected for Leeds, which he represented from 1832 to 1834. He was a Commissioner of Bankrupts; Commissioner, and then Secretary to the Board of Control; and member of, and legal adviser to, the Supreme Council in India. His Indian mission marks an epoch in his life. He went to India as one of the Commissioners for "Digesting and reforming the Laws of India;" his last speech in Parliament before leaving was on Indian affairs, and was delivered on July 10, 1833.

His salary, as Commissioner, was, we believe, £10,000 a year. Sir James Mackintosh had held an Indian appointment, and meant to make money, but did not. Macaulay meant to make money, and did. We have heard that he lived modestly, and went little into society there, like a prudent man. To his Indian absence we owe several essays—the "Bacon," the "Clive," the "Warren Hastings," three of the most striking which he ever wrote. In all three the style is equally remarkable, pungent, and exciting; but in all three are whole passages of doctrine or characterisations of persons and things, open to grave criticism and endless controversy. Macaulay suppressed his "Dryden" essay, feeling, perhaps, that he had (to use one of his own expressions) "wantonied in paradox." We fear the tendency is visible in some essays not suppressed. We do not attribute it to any worse cause than the charm which his own style exercises over him, as it exercises one over everybody else. We think that he is passionately fond of making an impression, and that he accordingly considers, rather than which view is the most impressive, than which view is the most just.

He returned from India in 1838. The next place for which he sat was Edinburgh, for which he was returned in 1839. In June of that year, he spoke in favour of the Ballot, on Mr. Grote's motion. He is in favour of Ballot, on the one ground, that he holds it to be a security against "intimidation." He considers that intimidation has strengthened since the Reform Bill. His support of the Ballot ranks him among the more "liberal" Whigs. But he is opposed to triennial Parliaments: and, though he has once or twice, or oftener, insisted that monarchy and aristocracy are "means not ends," and so on, 1848 seems to have sharpened his perceptions of the dangers of democracy; and he is no more (for practical purposes) a democrat than Lord Derby. Indeed, he is a consistent, steady Whig, of the old school of Grey and Holland; and if he spoke violently in his early days, it was only because those were days of great public excitement. Macaulay now obtained office, and served as Secretary-at-War from 1839 to 1841. When the Whigs came in again on the fall of Peel, he was appointed Paymaster-General, which he held from 1846 to 1848. In this last year, he was chosen Lord Rector of Glasgow, a post which many eminent men have held, and delivered an admirable historical address on the occasion. His rejection at Edinburgh, in favour of a paper-maker (1847), excited universal disgust; and he was re-elected in '52, in a way which showed that Edinburgh was ashamed of itself.

Upon the whole—when we consider Macaulay's political career (and we have now gone through his statesman-life)—we see great success, indeed; but we see that the literary rather than the practical side of statesmanship must have been his forte. He never rose to very high office. Though a



THOMAS BABINGTON MACAULAY, M.P.

great speaker of a kind, he was never a great *debater*, which is quite a different thing. We see, in fact, that to be the historian of England must have been the main business of his life. During all the years through which we have traced him, it is evident that the bent of his mind was towards historical composition. In his first essay, on Milton,—in one of his latest, on Addison, you see the taste quite visible. One contains a dissertation on Puritans and Roundheads; the other on the parties of the

does not enjoy such touches the less, because tenderness or sentiment of any kind is by no means one of Macaulay's general weaknesses.

There is a good description of Macaulay as an orator by Mr. Francis. His voice is not good, and his delivery is too rapid, and the whole effect of one of his speeches is to give too much the air of premeditation and set speech-making to his efforts.

He is a short, round, somewhat burly gentleman in person, with an

time of William, Anne, and George the First. To be sure, both men were connected with politics. But still that connection was slight,—so slight, at least, that a regular man-of-letters view of them would by no means require so much notice of it as we find in Macaulay. He, indeed, is thoroughly literary; but the political and historical side of literature is the one which he most loves, which he is most accomplished in, and which he is best fitted for. All his poems are historical, from "Ivy" and the "Armada" to the "Lays of Ancient Rome." As a young man, he wrote comic verses; they were political squibs,—and, by-the-bye, so good that one of them was attributed to Moore, who mentions the fact in his "Diary," where, also, are other notices of Macaulay's great memory and colloquial talent. In short, he is a political *littérateur*, or literary politician—a man more of the school of Mackintosh than of Johnson or Gray.

He had evidently, we say, early meditated a history, and of his essays many are merely historical—the "Burleigh," "War of the Spanish Succession," "Thackeray's 'hatham,' &c. &c. For the last few years his whole time has been devoted, of course, to his *magnum opus*. He very rarely speaks in Parliament. The success of the first instalment of his History was great; but during the years which intervened between it and the continuation, its popularity swelled enormously, and hence the sale which now astonishes us. We reviewed the work last week, and need not repeat what we then said. It blends all the qualities and all the advantages of the author's mind and of his career; the practical air of Whig and London society and parliamentary talent, with the wit and ornament and miscellaneous reading of a crack Cambridge scholar, and writer of capital ballads. Such a combination can occur but rarely; and only as remarkable a combination can achieve as remarkable a success. He is as wonderful a man as one can be without being a great one.

Macaulay all along has been a steady consistent politician, of integrity and fidelity to his party unimpeachable. He took his line early, and has stuck to it well; and he might have been less successful without being a bit more honest. How much higher he might have got in office if he had sacrificed letters and the rest, to cultivating parliamentary talent, we cannot say. But at least he never tried. He has been faithful to his earliest aspirations, which is the case with very few. Neither Parliament nor society have ever drawn him from the lamp and his books further than they ought. One respects him heartily for this—just as one feels a thrill of pleasure in seeing him put in a note, in speaking of one of William's battles, to say "It was here Corporal Trim was wounded." Perhaps one



JANUARY FASHIONS—BALL DRESSES.

honest, intellectual, rather Scotch face, and an abstracted, homely manner of walking along. He has never been married. He resides in the "Albany," and haunts the British Museum (as might be expected) a good deal. We have several times alluded to his conversational talents. He is one of the last of the table-talkers—the last masters of a decaying art. His memory is wonderful, and extends to everything grave and gay—a memory like that of Scaliger, or Dr. Johnson, or Porson, or Sir Walter Scott. We are sorry to add that his health has, according to report, been but indifferently lately. We hope, however, that he will survive to give us many a bright page more of the "History," even if he does not carry it down so far as the Battle of Waterloo.

JANUARY FASHIONS.

THE approaching nuptials of a young princess (which will shortly be celebrated at one of the Courts of Germany), have occasioned extensive orders for millinery, &c., to be transmitted to Paris. Several of the principal modistes of the French capital are at present busily engaged in preparing the *trousseau*, which is remarkable alike for its magnitude and costliness. Among the dresses are several of supreme elegance. One, intended for the reception of morning visitors, is of peach colour moire, trimmed with black velvet. The sleeves, which are very wide and loose at the ends, are lined with white satin, and edged with full ruffles of costly lace. A dress of black velvet, made high to the throat, is richly trimmed with Chantilly lace; and one of bright emerald green velvet has a jacket corsage, the basque, ends of the sleeves, &c., being edged with ermine of exquisite beauty. Two dresses, for evening costume, are distinguished for taste and novelty of style. One is of bright cerulean blue velvet, having up each side of the skirt, two pyramidal trimmings of white satin, in what is called the *tablier* style. The white satin is entirely covered with waving rows of Alençon lace, amidst which are disposed white roses, without foliage, each rose having a diamond in its centre. The corsage is low, and pointed at the waist, and has a stomacher of white satin, covered with Alençon lace, and ornamented with roses and diamonds, in the same style as the front trimming of the skirt. The short sleeves are ornamented in a corresponding way. The other evening dress is of pink imperial velvet, and is ornamented in a most tasteful style, with Brussels lace and white feather fringe.

One or two bonnets in the same *trousseau*, are singularly elegant. One is of velvet, of that peculiarly rich and brilliant hue which the French distinguish by the name of *bouton d'or*. This bonnet is ornamented on the outside by a superb bird of paradise, and under the brim by bouillonnés of blonde and a wreath of flowers made of maroon colour velvet.

Figure 1.—Dress of pink *tulle illusion* over a slip of pink silk. The *tulle* dress has three skirts; the first or undermost of which is edged with a broad bouillon of *tulle*. Above the bouillon is a flounce, trimmed with three rows of pink satin ribbon, each row being edged with white blonde. The second skirt is likewise edged with a bouillon, having above it a flounce trimmed with two, instead of three rows of pink satin ribbon, edged with blonde. The third or uppermost of the three skirts, which is of double *tulle*, is trimmed with broad pink satin ribbon, disposed longitudinally in double rows all round. *Bretelles* of broad pink satin ribbon descend in long flowing ends from the back of the waist, and terminate in front by a bow, fixed at the point of the corsage; above this bow is placed a bouquet of roses. The short sleeves are formed of two large puffs, edged with narrow lace. A chemise of the same lace rises above the top of the corsage. The hair is arranged in twists at the back part of the head; at each side is fixed a bouquet of roses with pendant sprays of pink heath.

Figure 2.—Dress with four skirts of white *tulle* over a slip of white lace. The *tulle* forming each of the skirts is double. The undermost skirt is quite plain, without trimming, and the three upper skirts are trimmed with bouquets of blue narcissus. The same flowers are employed to ornament the corsage and the sleeves. The *berthe* is of Brussels lace, and the sleeves are edged with a row of the same lace. The head-dress consists of a large bouquet of blue narcissus, and long sprays of "forget-me-not" drooping over the neck. Brooch and bracelets of sapphires and diamonds. Fan, mounted on mother-of-pearl, inlaid with silver.

INTIMIDATION BY TURNOUTS AT MANCHESTER.—The only change which has taken place in the strike of spinners and picers at Manchester has occurred this week through some eight or nine persons resuming work on Thursday and Friday last week, at the mill of Mr. J. Clarke, in Helena Street. This led to great excitement among the turnouts, and on Friday at noon one of the "knobsticks," as the new workpeople are called, was followed from the mill to his own house, and assailed with threats and abuse. In returning from his dinner, stones were thrown at him. On Saturday, Thomas Limerick, a spinner, was brought before the magistrates, charged with having taken a leading part in this intimidation and violence. A spinner named William Gutteridge stated that he was working at Mr. Clarke's mill, and left it at one o'clock to go home to dinner. He was followed by the prisoner and others, and the prisoner, in company with about a dozen others, asked him if he meant to leave his work and join the strike. He said he did not, and they then attacked him and chased him to the door of his house in Branson Street. The prisoner remained under his front window from ten minutes past one o'clock until a quarter to two, threatening him with vengeance, if it were seven years before it could be taken. Gutteridge's wife corroborated this statement, and spoke to Limerick's identity, and said that Limerick told her if her husband came out of his house to return to work they would kill him. For the defence three witnesses (two of them turnouts) were called to prove an alibi. Mr. Maude, the magistrate, said that the defence had proved too much—they had proved that the prisoner was in two places at once. The Bench had no doubt of the facts, and could not permit gross intimidation and violence like this to continue. The sentence was that the prisoner be committed to hard labour for one calendar month. It is said that the funds collected for the turnouts last week—the most inclement weather we have had—afforded a dividend of only 1s. to each person on strike.

WILTSHIRE REFORMATORY INSTITUTION.—Active steps are being taken to establish a reformatory school for this county. The result of the meeting held some time since at Devizes, under the presidency of the Marquis of Lansdowne, has been that the sum of £1,000 has been subscribed, and very great interest has been evinced in the matter by most of the leading persons of the county. A site for the proposed building has been selected, which is within an hour's journey of Salisbury, Bradford, Trowbridge, Chippenham, Melksham, Devizes, Westbury, and Warminster.

CHARGE OF MURDER AGAINST AN INNKEEPER.—Mr. Joseph Henry Beardsmore, landlord of the Railway Hotel, in Neville Street, Newcastle, was brought before the coroner of that town, on Saturday last, charged with the murder of his wife by throwing her out at the window. This is one of those unhappy cases, the details of which would not, we presume, be interesting to many of our readers. The evidence given was not satisfactory to the coroner, who accordingly adjourned the case until some additional witnesses were examined. Mr. Beardsmore has been admitted to bail.

EXTENSIVE ROBBERIES OF BONDED STORES, AT BRISTOL.—A great sensation was produced in Bristol, on Saturday last, by the arrest of several persons on a charge of having been concerned in a robbery of wines and spirits to the extent of £2,000, from the bonded cellars of Mr. Alfred Phillips, Small Street. The persons charged were Mr. Stephen Bendall, who, till recently, carried on a large and fashionable business as a perfumer in College Green, but who has lately been concerned as a shipper to the colonies and Africa; George Davies, a locker in the Customs, and John Simms, a cellerman; John Kendall, lately chief clerk to Mr. Phillips, and a porter in his service named Garrett, are also in custody. They have been examined and remanded.

THE RETURN OF THE IRISH TO THEIR EMERALD ISLE.—The "Down Recorder" thus bears testimony to the truth of the evidence, already substantiated, of the rolling back of the emigration tide from the West to the East:—"It is a fact that Ireland is now a more prosperous country than it has been for years, and it is a fact that Irish emigrants are returning. Many went away panic-stricken who need not have gone. The country was well rid of others. Population is good for a country, provided it is not excessive, and provided it is moral and well conducted. In this, as in other things, there is a limit, which is desirable."

SERFDOM IN SCOTLAND.—The Duke of Argyll—generally known as "the model Duke of Scotland"—has recently been guilty of a most outrageous piece of despotism over the poorer inhabitants of the island of Tiree. The "Glasgow Times" indignantly calls attention to this act of slave-driving, and quotes the following placard, posted on the church-doors of Tiree, as evidence of the truth of what it states:—"Notice is hereby given, that, after this date, no tenant paying under £30 of rent is to be allowed to use whisky, or any other spirits, at weddings, balls, funerals, or any other gatherings; and all offenders against the terms of this notice will be dispossessed of their lands at the next term. By order, (Signed) Leuchlan Macquarie (factor's clerk),—Island House, Nov. 16, 1855." The darkest of the dark ages could hardly surpass the unblushing tyranny of this order. And the worst of it is, that it indicates a general condition of things in the island of Tiree, which is at once startling and humiliating. The islanders are evidently regarded in the light of mere goods and chattels.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

IN these days of favouritism, of encouragement shown to brainless parasites, and rewards showered upon idiotic family connections, it is cheering to be enabled to announce the bestowal of an appointment of a tolerably lucrative character upon a deserving literary gentleman. Such is my pleasing task this week. The appointment of Secretary to the Commissioners in Lunacy, valued at about eight hundred a year, has been given to Mr. John Forster, the Editor of the "Examiner," and one of the sternest, clearest headed men in London. In the literary world Mr. Forster is well known and deservedly esteemed; to the public his name will be familiar by his excellent "Life of Goldsmith," which has been so generally praised, and a popular edition of which has just been issued. Mr. Forster has also contributed largely to the "Edinburgh Review," "Household Words," and during the first years of its publication, to the "Daily News." Mr. Forster's predecessor in the editorial department of the "Examiner," Mr. Albany Ponblanque, was also selected for the public service, having been presented with an appointment in the Statistical Department of the Board of Trade, which he still holds.

Mr. Russell, the renowned special correspondent of the "Times," has returned home in full health and strength, looking none the worse for his protracted absence and many hardships. I am inclined to believe that the rumours as to General Codrington's antipathy to newspaper correspondents, his establishment of the passport system in the Crimea on their account, &c., &c., which were current some weeks ago, and to which I was induced to listen, are in reality unfounded. Mr. Russell has returned because he wanted rest, and because it is not imagined that any important operation will be undertaken during the winter. His place out there is supplied by a gentleman on the staff of the paper, and he himself will return in the spring to his old campaigning life. Of course, his reception by his old friends and brethren of the press has been most enthusiastic, and a grand dinner will be given to him by the members of the Garrick and Fiddling Clubs on this day (Saturday) week.

Theatrical circles have just now two subjects of gossip. One is, that Mr. Kean, as manager of the Windsor theatricals, informed Mr. Charles Mathews, Mr. Roxby, and Mrs. Frank Matthews, that it was her Majesty's pleasure they should perform at Windsor on the 24th instant, and rumour says Mr. Kean has heard from Mr. Mathews that Mr. E. T. Smith has decidedly refused to allow any member of his company to act at Windsor, on the ground that the Queen has never been to see them at Drury Lane. I know not how this may be, but Mr. Smith's statement is correct. The only time her Majesty has visited Drury Lane since it has been under Mr. Smith's management, was on the occasion of the Amateur Pantomime, when the Queen wished it to be distinctly understood that the honour was to the amateurs, not to the lessee. The other rumour is, that this spring her Majesty's Theatre will undoubtedly open under the management of Mr. Lumley, and there are great hopes of Madame Jenny Lind appearing there.

The year 1855, so eventful in the History of Europe, is at an end; and we are now awaiting the return of Count Esterhazy from St. Petersburg, to know whether the new term upon which we have entered is to be as turbulent and bloody as the last; or, whether we are to have our income tax decreased, and our provisions selling at a moderate price. It has been by no means a bad year for England, when the fearful odds against us and our miserable plight exactly twelvemonths ago are taken into consideration. We have dislodged the enemy from the best portion of his stronghold, and although our expectations of being enabled to drive him entirely from the Crimea have been disappointed, we have gained much, not only actually, but morally. We have compelled the Russian government perpetually to distrust upon its subjects for money, and to issue levies for troops; thereby creating a spirit of dissatisfaction among the people, which, once started, will slowly but surely increase. We have forced the enemy to abandon the mouth of the Danube, and have taken from him Kertch, the Sea of Azof, Anapa, and Kiburn. We have destroyed an incalculable amount of provision, upon which he was counting. Above all, we have shown our strength to those vacillating Powers, who, while professing themselves "neutral," had yet a conspicuous leaning towards the side of despotism and injustice, and who will now be much easier dealt with than when we were suffering from inglorious privation in the same month last year.

Had the fall of Kars happened a month later, our successes in the East would have been untarnished by one reverse; as it is, the Russians have this one triumph, and a triumph it certainly is, to boast of. Our navy has done almost what it did last year. For "Bomarsund" read "Sveaborg," and you have the whole story. I am speaking only of the Baltic division, of course. In the Sea of Azof, the services of the ships and gun-boats have been very great, as, without them, the devastation to the enemy's stores and the capture of many of his forts could not have been effected.

Within the first few weeks of the New Year we shall know whether a pacific or a warlike course is to be taken; and whichever it be, there is little for Englishmen to fear. The whole country is in earnest upon the question; the Minister is equally firm. If peace, it will be a peace upon the conditions of which we may rely; if war, we have the consolation of knowing that we have both justice and strength on our side.

What have we done at home? Not much, in faith! Detected Lord John Russell, started an abortive Administrative Reform Association, canted about "the right man in the right place," overthrown the ridiculous Beer Bill, checked the superfluous energy of the police, allayed by private subscription the sufferings of our soldiers caused by the neglect of our Government, welcomed the Emperor and Empress of the French and the King of Sardinia, seen the Paris Exhibition, sparred with America, Austria, and Prussia, paid enormous taxes with wonderful cheerfulness, and prepared ourselves to pay more. Literature has, during the year, seen the end of Thackeray's "Newcomes," and the commencement of Dickens's "Little Dorrit," has witnessed the removal of the compulsory newspaper stamp, the birth of Tennyson's "Maud," and of Macaulay's two new volumes. Looking back at the obituary of the year, many well-known names, well known either for their talents or peculiarities, will be found. Joseph Hume, the clear-headed, steady reformer; Feargus O'Connor, the wild enthusiast; Lord Raglan, the mistaken worshipper of duty; Sibthorpe, the crack-brained, honest, hearty Englishman; Molesworth, the untiring, persevering statesman; Rogers, the Nestor of the poets,—all gone.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

"BLACKWOOD'S" first article, the "Gold Screw and its Consequences," treats the currency question lengthily, discursively, and, it is needless to say, well. The writer is satisfied that no alarm need be felt at the present state of our money market, but admitting the enormous drain upon the gold, and the fact that gold money has lost its usual steadiness of value proposes as a remedy to steady the currency by means of our paper money, so keeping the circulation steady in amount, and consequently in value. He argues that the currency ought to be freed from the fluctuations which now beset it, and that the best way to do this, is by issuing, when an influx of gold comes, an equal amount of paper money to fill the vacuum in the currency, and then cancelling these notes when the gold flows back. He also anticipates a suspension of the Bank Act of 1844, the issue of £1 notes, and the appointment of a parliamentary committee to investigate the whole question of the currency. There is a capital article on "Lancashire Strikes," in which a great compliment is paid to Mrs. Gaskell for her knowledge of and power of sketching factory life, and in which the system of arbitration between masters and workmen is strongly upheld; and another on the "Inns of Court and the Bar of England," founded upon the Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the arrangements of the Inns of Court and Inns of Chancery for promoting the study of the law and of jurisprudence, in which the ignorance of many of our junior barristers is sharply commented on. "Wet Days at Pryn Cefn" contains a description of a North Wales landscape which North himself might have written, and some pleasant scraps of verse, which have an Aytounish ring about them. "Drinking and Smoking," gives us many amusing anecdotes of hard bottle-bouts, and the paper on the "State of the British Army," while strongly advocating the promotion of

younger men than are now entrusted with command, is pungently severe upon the absurdities of the new examination system.

In "Fraser" as in every other review that I have seen, Mr. Robert Browning is brought to the bar, and a very harsh sentence passed upon his last production, "Men and Women," he being severely taken to task, more especially for his laziness and vanity. These, "the two most fatal forms of selfishness," says the reviewer, "do their worst, and the eliqueses in admiration at one of the saddest sights under God's sky, when the light that came from heaven burns murkier and murkier in a poet's soul; and, instead of making God's word more intelligible by unfolding the beauty and meaning of its objects, with loving care and graceful painstaking, he scrawls down the first rough hints that suggest themselves to him, and will not even take the trouble to make them legible." These are harsh words, but who shall say they are not deserved? Other papers in "Fraser" are the continuation of the conversation of the "Friends in Council Abroad," and of "Lord Nugent in the Baltic," and the commencement of a new story, by the author of "Digby Grand," called "Kate Coventry." There is also an article on the present condition of Ireland, and a spirited review of Mr. Bennett's "Philip the Second."

In the new number of the "Dublin University Magazine," now the property of Messrs. Hurst and Blackett, Mr. Cole continues his short biographies of the dramatic writers of Ireland, coming down to those known in our own time, such as James Kenney, Lady Morgan, Tyrone Power, &c., who this month are treated of. Fenimore Cooper, Dana, and Herman Melville, linked together under the title of "A Trio of American Sailor-Authors," form the substance of a smartly-written, but rather too eulogistic and pro-Yankee article. Longfellow's "Hiawatha" receives its due meed of praise, and the "Twilight Musings of an Old Man," written in a sweet, semi-religious spirit, contain many scraps of tuneful and truly poetical verse.

The new magazine entitled the "Train," and published at a shilling, has a green wrapper, and is about the same size as one of Dickens's serials, but contains double the number of pages. It opens with the first two chapters of a serial story, by Mr. R. B. Brough, called "Marston Lynch," which are full of sharp observation, clever description, and undoubted knowledge of the scenes depicted by the author. To this tale there are two illustrations by Mr. W. McConnell, a young man who, although well known and largely employed, has yet his true position in the world to make. I will be bound to say that no one who has hitherto known this gentleman but as the designer of those wonderfully flaring covers for those execrably comic books, which clog up every railway stall, will recognise his style in the touching and beautiful wood-cut in page 15 of the "Train." I could not imagine that he had it in him, but I sincerely trust that, having once shown what he can do, he will eschew his former vagaries, and hold to the style of which he has here given the world a specimen, and in which, should he persevere, he will obtain the highest rank. There is a paper called the "Parisian Nights Entertainment," by Mr. G. A. Sala, one of the best of the many excellent word-daguerotypes which this gentleman has published. His powers of observation and of description are extraordinary. In London, Paris, America (your readers will recollect "Colonel Quag's Conversion" in "Household Words"), in all he seems equally at home, and his account of the "New Year's Eve," and of the "Jour de l'An" itself, as passed in the French metropolis, is as faithful as if it had been penned by the most inveterate *faneur* of the Boulevards. As good specimens of magazine articles, I will name Mr. Bridgman's "Passage in the Life of M. Jolivet," and Mr. W. Brough's "Mr. Watkin's Apprentice," the latter of which has some tasteful and cleverly executed vignettes by Mr. Bennett, who in a masterly manner has also reproduced Hogarth's Portrait of John Wilkes, in an account of the famous "Number Forty-five," which is furnished by Mr. Draper.

Mr. Frank Smedley contributes some very pretty verses, called "One more Unfortunate;" Mr. Godfrey Turner, a cavalier song, "Riding Away," after the manner of Mr. Browning; and Mr. Robert Brough, a metrical, "Story from Boccaccio," full of feeling and real poetry. The principal feature in the magazine is, however, a sort of revival of the "Noctes Ambrosianae" of Christopher North, toned down, however, to the exigencies of modern days, called "The Nights at the Round Table," being conversations in which the principal literary topics of the day are discussed by the Editor and his staff. Here are introduced several songs—one of which, a German *tafelied*, supposed to be sung by a contributor bearing the distinguished *soubriquet* of "John O'Gaunt," is particularly noticeable for its rhythm and its fidelity to the original.

THE MURDER IN THE MINORIES.—A Mrs. Corrigan was murdered by her husband last week while staying at the house of Mr. Burton, an optician in Church Street. Mr. Burton and his wife and sister, on running to the assistance of the woman, were attacked with the same knife which had dealt Mrs. Corrigan her death wounds, and considerably hurt—to such an extent, indeed, in the case of Mr. Burton and his sister, as to render it necessary that they should be conveyed to the hospital. Corrigan is in custody, and under remand at the Thames police court. The evidence of Mr. Burton makes it appear highly probable that the murderer was under the influence of *delirium tremens*. He had been very silent on Christmas Day, and looked "curious." Mrs. Fearon, Mr. Burton's sister, though suffering greatly from her wounds, gave evidence on Thursday, and described the fatal attack. The Magistrate asked her to turn round and look at the prisoner, for the purpose of identifying him, but her terror was so great that she was afraid to do so. At length she was raised from her chair and was being led out of court, when she rushed wildly towards the dock, and stretched out the arm that was not wounded to shake hands with Corrigan, who eagerly leant forward, caught her hand in his, and exclaimed "God bless you!" He then gave way to a paroxysm of grief, and again leant over the edge of the dock in a stooping position, and buried his face in his hands. As Mrs. Fearon was being led into the clerk's room, she exclaimed, "Oh, my arm—my arm!" and fainted.

WILL OF A MILLIONAIRE.—Letters of administration have been recently issued from the Prerogative Court, under the will of the late Mr. R. Dixon, of Stanstead Park, near Emsworth, Hampshire, who, as a wine-merchant, had amassed a fortune of more than £1,000,000 sterling. He bequeaths his estates, together with the mansion, plate, jewellery, furniture, &c., and property in hand, valued at about £3,000 per annum, and a sum of £400,000 in the funds, to his widow, for her own absolute use. He leaves to his two sisters, both of whom are advanced in years, £300,000 each. To all his servants £50 a year each for life, and a further sum of £500 to such as had been long in his service. To every labourer on the estate he has left £5. Two months before his death, he distributed the large sum of £85,490 among some of his personal friends, in order to evade the legacy duty. His charitable performances were in accordance with his prodigious wealth. Some few years back, he built and liberally endowed an almshouse for the reception of reduced merchants of advanced age. He also erected a church, with a parsonage and school-house, in the hamlet of Stanstead, making ample provision for their permanent maintenance.

NOVEL SUBJECT OF TAXATION.—A bill has been presented to the legislature of Tennessee, levying a tax of five dollars on every gentleman who wears a moustache, and a fine of five dollars upon bachelors over thirty years of age, for the purpose of raising money to increase the school fund.

SECRET OF THE YANKEE SYMPATHY WITH RUSSIA.—A Russian Prince, seated beside a Kentucky lady at St. Petersburg, expressed his wonder that a republican people like the Americans should have shown such sympathy for a Power of the political character of Russia. "Ah, Prince," said the lady, "don't you see that we are the only two civilised nations which maintain slavery?—hence the sympathy between us."

A PRETENDED BLACK-LETTER PROPHECY has been recently brought to light, to the effect that the Russian Empire would remain intact until one of its chief rivers should go through Paris? Its fulfilment is, of course, said to have taken place in August last, when there went through Paris—

Napoleon.....	N
Eugénie.....	E
Victoria.....	V
Albert.....	A

NEVA.

A FAIR YOUNG AMAZON.—The Allied cause has just been deprived of the services of a fair young Amazon who longed to do battle against the Moscow. The daughter of the Oberhoff-Marschall of Baden, 16 years old, managed to get clear of her father's house, and to arrive, per railway, at Kehl, in man's attire, and smoking a cigar. Here she was arrested in her further progress, and conveyed ignominiously back to the seat of parental authority.

THE POISONING CASE AT RUGELEY.

The report of Palmer's death, in Stafford Gaol, turns out to be incorrect. It will be remembered that the prisoner refused to take food for nearly a week previous to his arrest, which determination he persevered in till towards the end of last week, when he was induced to take nourishment, after being threatened that food would be forcibly administered to him, if he still refused to take it. He is now in tolerably good health, and perfectly free from any disease likely to cause death.

It is reported that Palmer, before his arrest, sent for the postboy who was engaged to convey the contents of the postbox and intestines of the late Mr. Cook to the railway station, preparatory to their transmission to Professor Taylor for analysis in London, and offered him £10 if he would undertake the conveyance and break the jars. That any one so circumstanced as he then was should have been made enough to make such a suggestion appears very unlikely.

Since the prisoner's apprehension, the whole of his stud of horses and effects have been seized under a bill of sale, by a solicitor from Birmingham, and it is now rumoured that the prisoner will be declared a bankrupt. It is also stated that three writs have been served on Mrs. Palmer, the prisoner's mother, a lady residing at Rugeley, for the recovery of bills amounting to between £10,000 and £20,000, and to have been accepted by her on behalf of the prisoner, and which are now alleged to be forgeries.

The analysis of the stomach and intestines of the prisoner's wife and his brother, Walter Palmer, is being performed by Professor Taylor; and a report has got abroad that a small portion of arsenic has been already discovered in the intestines of Mrs. Palmer. The following are the assurances which were effected on the life of Walter Palmer, the prisoner's brother:—Athenium, £10,200; British Equitable, £500; Brunswick, £500; Caxton, £500; Era, £500; Falcon, £500; Magnet, £2,500; Prince of Wales, £5,000; Saxon, £500; Security, £500; and office not named, £500. Total, £25,450. A copy of this list was furnished so early as September last to the different Insurance Offices of London. Proposals were, it is said, also made to the Gresham and other offices, which, however, were not accepted.

Palmer and the deceased were, it seems, well known to every person connected with the turf; their horses were trained together, they lived on the most intimate terms, and invariably lodged at the same hotel at the different race meetings which they frequented. Palmer was considered to be rather a fortunate man on the turf, and a quiet, careful better. He won some large stakes in the course of his time. In 1853, his horse, Goldilocks, carried off the Chester Cup. During the past racing season he was not quite so successful; still, by his horse Chicken, which he purchased for a large sum, he won many good stakes, besides bets. The Chicken, however, was twice beaten at the Liverpool Autumn Meeting, when he was heavily backed; and once at the last meeting at Shrewsbury, where it is supposed the first dose of poison was administered to poor Cook. Nettle, who was first favourite for the Oaks, and who fell over the chain, breaking her rider's thigh, also belonged to Palmer. Mr. Cook had a long career of ill luck. His losses during the past season could not have fallen far short of £7,000. By the success of his mare, Polestar, however, at Worcester and Shrewsbury, he won nearly a moiety of that amount. Every effort to find the betting-book of the deceased, Mr. Cook, has at present proved fruitless.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSEHOLD WORDS AND A MACHINE BOY.—Albert Foreman, a boy of about 15 years of age, was placed at the bar before the court at Guildhall on Monday, charged with wilfully damaging the property of his employers. Joseph Pardoe said: I am overseer to Messrs. Bradbury and Evans, printers. The prisoner is in their employment as a machine boy. He has been so about four months. About half-past nine o'clock this morning I found some damage done to the stereo plate of the "Household Words," which we were in a great hurry to get finished. The machine was, in consequence, delayed for three hours. Wm. Brine said: I work at Messrs. Bradbury's. I saw the prisoner this morning standing near the machine. He drew his arm suddenly across the type. He had a "stroker" in his hand. There was no one else near the machine. The reason he did it was, I suppose, to stop the work, as he was employed on that machine. Cross-examined by the prisoner: I cannot say that I saw you touch the plate, but I saw you draw your hand across it. Mr. Pardoe was recalled, and said that the "stroker" produced would cause the damage that was done. Messrs. Bradbury and Evans did not bring the prisoner up for the value of the damage, for that would only amount to 2s.; but in order to make an example of one of the boys, as there were no less than 60 of them employed, and as they were paid whether they worked or not, it was of frequent occurrence for the plates to be damaged, as in the present case, in order that they might get off sooner. The sitting Alderman said, that he regretted that he had not the power to deal with the case in another way than merely inflicting upon the prisoner the amount of the damage done. He would, however, lose his situation as well as his character. His worship then fined the prisoner 2s., or three days' imprisonment. The fine was paid.

DR. VAUGHAN AND MALBY THE SEXTON.—William Malby, sexton at St. Matthew's, Brixton, appeared before the Lambeth Police Court, on Monday, to answer a charge of perjury, on a summons taken out by Dr. Vaughan.

A gentleman, whose name did not transpire, addressing the Magistrate, said—This, sir, is a proceeding for perjury, instituted by Dr. Vaughan against William Malby, in consequence of certain observations which fell from a judge at the Lambeth County Court, and subsequent to a summons being granted. Dr. Vaughan was examined at this court, and committed for trial. It was then thought advisable that the Rev. Doctor should not appear as a prosecutor against Malby, until his own case was disposed of; and, as it may be some time before that can be done, my application is, that the case may be further adjourned, and I do not object to the defendant being admitted to bail on his own recognizances.

The defendant's attorney observed that it was exceedingly hard to have a charge of such a serious character hanging over the head of his client, and if his Worship consented to the application, he hoped that Mr. Malby would be bound over to an early day, and that it should be intimated to the prosecutor, that if he did not then proceed, the summons would be dismissed.

The Magistrate remarked that there was no evidence before him in the case, and therefore he had no power to order the further adjournment, except by mutual consent.

Malby, on hearing this, said he would much prefer having the case heard and disposed of at once, and he should therefore object to a further postponement.

The attorney for the prosecution said he had no wish to give the defendant unnecessary trouble, and should be satisfied with Malby's own recognizances.

The Magistrate repeated he had no power to order the defendant to find recognizances, unless he was a consenting party, and must therefore discharge him for the present, and leave the prosecutor and his friends to take out a fresh summons, or adopt any other course they thought proper.

The summons were then dismissed, and the parties left the Court.

A JUVENILE SWINDLER.—Thomas Clark, about 12 years of age, was charged at Guildhall on Tuesday with obtaining money from his master's customers by means of forged letters.

It appeared that the lad was in the employ of Mr. Hurley, a newsdealer, of St. Martin's Place, and that about a fortnight ago, he went to the managers of the City News Rooms, with a note purporting to be signed by his master's wife, requesting a settlement of the account then owing for newspapers. The manager gave him £1 1s. 2d. on account. On the 17th of December last, the boy went to a wholesale druggist, who had also an account, and delivered a note purporting to be signed by Mrs. Hurley, and representing that, as she was very much distressed for money in consequence of her husband being a prisoner in Whitecross Street for debt,

she would be obliged for the amount of his debt. The druggist gave the prisoner a crossed cheque for £5, but on the following morning he brought it back, saying it was of no use because it was crossed, and requested a cheque not crossed. The druggist hesitated, but when the boy urged Mrs. Hurley's distress for money, he gave another cheque as desired, and it had since been returned as paid. After getting these two sums the lad absconded, but he was apprehended shortly after by the metropolitan police, in the neighbourhood of Greenwich.

Mr. Hurley said he had not received either of the sums mentioned, and the two letters produced were forgeries; but Mrs. Hurley was not present to state they were not in her writing.

The prisoner was then committed for trial upon the first charge, and remanded on the second case for the attendance of Mrs. Hurley and other witnesses to prove the payment of the cheque for £5 to the prisoner.

A REAL KNIGHT OF ST. GEORGE.—Lazarus Holderness, landlord of the King's Arms, Windsor, was brought before the Marlborough Police Court, on Tuesday, charged with being drunk and creating a disturbance at the Princess's Theatre. He was further charged with assaulting a police-constable while in the execution of his duty.

The latter deposed that, on Monday night, about 8 o'clock, he was on duty in the upper boxes of the theatre, when he heard a great disturbance proceed from the tier of the lower boxes. He at once went down stairs to see what was the matter, when he saw Master Lazarus standing up in the box addressing the audience while the play was going on. He desired him to come out of the box, which he refused to do, and called out to the audience to be silent, stating that he was a real Knight of St. George, and would favour them with a song. He, moreover, said something about "Romans, countrymen, and lovers," and was proceeding in a similar strain, when witness forcibly removed him from the house. On the way to the police-station, the defendant, who was rather the worse for liquor, struck him on the chest.

The Magistrate—Was it a violent blow, such as a Knight of St. George would give? (Laughter.)

Constable—Oh, no, your Worship; the blow was but slight, and did not hurt me much.

The defendant, in answer to the charge, said he dropped a sovereign in the box he was in, and called for a light to find it. That no doubt caused a disturbance and great confusion, for which he was now very sorry. As to his being a Knight of St. George, that was only a freak of his imagination.

The Magistrate hoped the defendant would be more careful for the future, and fined him 40s. for the assault on the constable. The money was at once paid.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

As the prospects of peace have not improved, and as several heavy payments have been made this week, the market for all national securities has been heavy, and prices have been dropping. The 3 per cents. ex dividend, have marked 88½, ½ to 88½; the reduced, 88½, ½ to 88½; and the new 3 per cents. 88½, ½ to 88½. Long Annuities have realised 3 9-16; ditto 1855, 16 5-16; Exchequer Bills and India Bonds, 10s. to 5s. discount; Exchequer Bonds, 97½ to 100; Bank Stock, 205 to 206.

There has been a very active demand for money, and the rates of discount have been fully supported. The lowest rate in Lombard Street is 5½ per cent.

Since we last wrote, about £700,000, chiefly in gold, has come in, but we understand that nearly the whole of it has been purchased for the Bank of France.

The transactions in all foreign securities have been trifling, yet we have very little change to notice in the quotations. Brazilian 5 per cents. have realised 29½; ditto small, 99½; ditto 4½ per cents. 90½ ex div.; Danish 3 per cents. 83; Mexican 3 per cents. 19½; Portuguese 4 per cents. 49; Spanish 3 per cents. 40½; Turkish 6 per cents. 83½; ditto small, 83½; ditto new scrip, 34 dis.; Dutch 4 per cents. 94½.

Railway shares have been tolerably steady, as follows:—Caledonian, 54½; Eastern Counties, 9; Great Northern, 88; Great Western, 53; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 77; London and Brighton, 94½; London and South Western, 85½; Midland, 64; North Eastern—Berwick, 68; South Eastern, 57; South Wales, 32½; Vale of Neath, 19; Waterford and Kilkenny, 34.

Miscellaneous securities have ruled very inactive. Bank of London, 58½; English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered, 16½; London Joint Stock, 34½; London and Westminster, 48½; Oriental, 38; Union of Australia, 75. Canada Company's Bonds have been 128 ex div.; ditto Government 6 per cents. 109½; Crystal Palace, 24; General Steam Navigation, 26½; Peninsular and Oriental Steam, 63½; Royal Mail Steam, 77; Victoria Government 6 per cents. 100.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE.—The arrivals of English wheat up to our markets, this week, have been on the increase, but in very middling condition. For all kinds, the demand has ruled exceedingly heavy, and prices have given way 1s. to 2s. per quarter. Foreign wheat has met a very dull sale, on almost nominal terms. Floating cargoes have ruled heavy in the extreme. We have had a very dull inquiry for barley, at fully 2s. per quarter less money; and malt has been offered on lower terms. Oats have sold heavily, at 6d. to 1s. per quarter decline. The inquiry for beans has continued heavy, at a further decline in value of 2s.—white ditto, 3s. to 4s. per quarter. Flour has changed hands slowly, at 2s. to 3s. per sack less money.

ENGLISH CURRENCY.—Essex and Kent White Wheat, 64s. to 89s.; ditto, Red, 58s. to 84s.; Malting Barley, 38s. to 42s.; Distilling ditto, 36s. to 39s.; Grinding ditto, 35s. to 39s.; Malt, 64s. to 82s.; Rye, 50s. to 52s.; Feed Oats, 27s. to 29s.; Potato ditto, 28s. to 33s.; Tick Beans, 37s. to 42s.; Pigweed, 43s. to 52s.; White Peas, 47s. to 52s.; Maple, 40s. to 44s.; Gray, 40s. to 44s. per quarter; Town-made Flour, 70s. to 72s.; Town Households, 61s. to 63s.; Norfolk and Suffolk, 54s. to 56s. per 280lbs.

CATTLE.—Very limited supplies of beasts have been on sale, and the beef trade has ruled active, at an advance of 2d. per 8lbs. Sheep, though in short supply, have sold slowly, on former terms. Calves have realised higher rates, with an active demand. In pigs, very little has been doing. Beef, 3s. 6d. to 5s.; mutton, 3s. 4d. to 5s.; veal, 4s. 10d. to 6s.; pork, 3s. 10d. to 5s. per 8lbs. to sink the offal.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL.—The supplies have been but moderate, yet the trade has ruled heavy as follows:—Beef from 3s. 2d. to 4s. 6d.; mutton, 3s. 2d. to 4s. 6d.; veal, 4s. 5d. to 6d.; pork, 3s. 4d. to 5s. 2d. per 8 lbs. by the carcass.

TEA.—The demand is wholly confined to small parcels on former terms.—Congo, 94d. to 2s. 7d.; Ning Yung and Oolong, 10d. to 1s. 9d.; Souchong, 9d. to 2s. 8d.; Flower Pekoe, 1s. 5d. to 3s. 6d.; Caper, 1s. to 1s. 3d.; Scented Caper, 1s. to 1s. 8d.; Orange Pekoe, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 4d.; Scented Orange Pekoe, 1s. 9d. to 2s. 9d.; Twankay, 8d. to 1s. 2d.; Hyson Skin, 7d. to 1s.; Hyson, 1s. 5d. to 3s. 9d.; Young Hyson, 9d. to 3s.; Imperial, 1s. to 2s. 9d.; Gunpowder, 1s. to 3s. 6d.; Assam, 1s. to 4s. 4d. per lb.

SUGAR.—We have to report a revival in the demand for both raw and refined goods, at prices about 16s. per cwt. beneath the highest point of the market. The total delivery for consumption last year was 224,637 tons against 200,941 tons in 1854. The stock is now 39,637 tons against 76,433 ditto.

MOLASSES.—The highest value of the best West India is 24s. per cwt., and the demand is heavy.

COFFEE.—A full average business has been doing in most kinds, at fully previous rates. Good ordinary native Ceylon, 51s. to 52s. per cwt.

COCOA.—Most kinds move off slowly, and are rather easier to purchase.

RICE.—Our market is heavy, and, to effect sales, lower rates must be submitted to.

FRUIT.—So few sales have taken place in this market that the quotations are almost nominal. Valencia Raisins, 70s. to 94s.; new currants, 65s. to 110s.; new Sultanais, 65s. to 70s. per cwt.

PROVISIONS.—Foreign butter moves off very slowly, at a decline of 2s. per cwt. In other kinds, very little is doing. The

bacon market is slow, yet prices are supported. In other kinds of provisions, very little is doing.

WOOL.—All kinds are very dull, yet holders refuse to accept lower prices.

COTTON.—A good business is doing in our market, at full quotations. The stock in Great Britain is now 429,000 bales, against 624,600 ditto on the 31st Dec., 1854.

HEMP AND FLAX.—The demand is wholly confined to immediate wants, yet prices are supported.

METALS.—Scotch pig iron has sold at 74s. 6d. to 75s. Spelter moves off slowly, at £23 15s. per ton on the spot. Tin and tin plates are quite as dear as last week. In other metals, only a limited business is doing.

SPIRITS.—We have no change to notice in prices, and the demand is rather heavy. Proof Leewards rum, 3s. to 3s. 3d.; East India, 2s. 11d. to 3s. Malt spirit, 11s. 2d. proof.

INDIGO.—The demand is steady, at full prices.

HOPS.—Most kinds are a slow sale, but not cheaper. Mid and East Kent pockets, 9s. to 12s.; Weald of Kent, 65s. to 95s.; Sussex, 60s. to 90s. per cwt.

POTATOES.—Sales progress slowly, at from 55s. to 110s. per ton.

OILS.—Lined oil, on the spot, is selling at £42 10s. per ton. Brown rape is worth £58; pale ditto, £61; Gallipoli, £54 to £55; cocoa-nut, £45 to £46; palm, £47 to £48; sperm, £125 to £129; pale seal, £56; pale southern, £52 to £53; cod, £49.

TALLOW.—Our market is quiet, and P.Y.C. on the spot, is selling at 67s. 9d. to 68s. per cwt. The stock is now 19,896 casks, against 35,781 ditto in 1854, 42,256 in 1853, and 47,135 in 1852. Rough fat, 3s. 7d. per cwt.

COALS.—Tanfield Moor, 17s. 6d.; Whitworth, 19s. 6d.; Evenwood, 17s.; Davison's West Hartley, 18s. per ton.

LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28.

BANKRUPTS.—JOSEPH FARMAN, Portobello Terrace, Notting Hill, builder—GEORGE FREDERICK CRAGGS, Coleridge Row, Old Kent Road, wholesale fancy stationer—WILLIAM EDMONDS, Kidderminster, hosier—JOHN GRIMWOOD PERKINS, Throgmorton Street, City, stockbroker—MOSS DAVIDS, Middle Row, Holborn, milliner and bonnet salesman—GEORGE TAYLOR, Derby, silk manufacturer—THOMAS JOHNS, Dowlish, Merthyr Tydvil, grocer.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—JOHN PARKER MARSH, Bishopsgate Street, City, wool broker and banker.

BANKRUPTS.—WILLIAM ELMANS, Heyford and Rugbrook, Northamptonshire, ironstone master—GEORGE WAGNER, Bernard Street, Russell Square, auctioneer—JAMES HARRISON, City, commission agent—LEONARD LAIDMAN, Chancery Lane, law stationer—JOSEPH NOKES, Lower Hospital Street, Birmingham, glass cutter—WILLIAM SEAGER WHITE, Handsword, Staffordshire, chemist—ROWLAND HILL BLACKER, Ludgate Street, City, mantle manufacturer—WILLIAM HIGGINS, Hawley Mills, near Dartford, Kent, paper manufacturer—ISAAC FIRTH, Manchester, victualler—BAXTER BAKER, York, innkeeper—GEORGE TAYLOR, Derby, silk manufacturer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—COPLAND and BRICKMANN, Dundee, ship brokers—PETER STORO, Glasgow, ironmonger—MAXWELL MILLER, Glasgow, coppersmith.

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